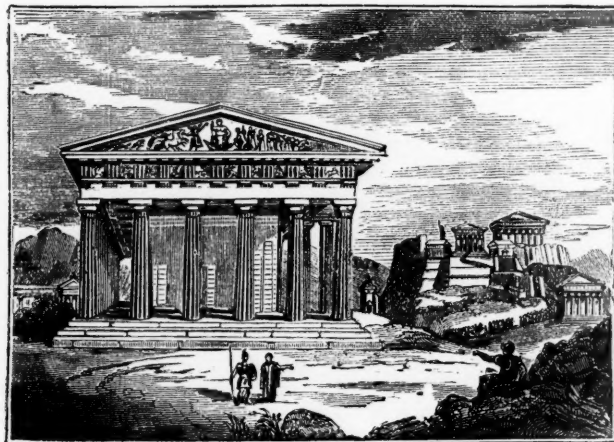


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1891.



SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1892.

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LITERATURE

*Sir Walter Raleigh: a Biography.* By William Stebbing. (Oxford, Clarendon Press.)

THE romance which glathers around the career of Sir Walter Raleigh has tempted yet another biographer to retell the story which is so complicated and fascinating, so full and yet in many directions so elusive. Since that admirable life by Oldys, which still, in all but detail, remains the most valuable as well as the most picturesque of these narratives, not fewer than fourteen or fifteen successive hands have made an effort to portray the figure of Sir Walter Raleigh at full length. In the tone of his allusions to these his predecessors Mr. Stebbing is chivalrously courteous, and refrains, with studied amenity, from conquering consideration at the expense of those who have gone before him. A few years ago it might have seemed superfluous to note so obvious a characteristic of a gentleman, but nowadays, in the jealous struggle for existence, it seems to be growing the exception for an author who treads ground which a predecessor has traversed to do so in any other spirit than that of the man who draws attention to his own merits by sneering at those of earlier students. There is nothing of this littleness in the manner of Mr. Stebbing, who errs rather in an opposite direction. So little anxious is he to win credit for small discoveries that he sails on, after a prefatory acknowledgment of debt to all the successive biographers of Raleigh, as though his own was the only life of his hero which would, for the future, ever be read. He furnishes scarcely a single documentary reference to an authority, old or new, from his first page to his last, and it is, therefore, exceedingly difficult to check his facts. We have made a point, however, of doing so in several parts of his work, and the substantial accuracy of the narrative is remarkable.

In dealing with the exceedingly obscure childhood and youth of Raleigh, Mr. Stebbing is very full. We do not agree with him that it is likely that Raleigh fought at the battle of Rimenant on August 1st, 1578—a mere conjecture which has crept into his biographies, we know not how. Mr. Stebbing repeats the mistake, which a recent writer of a life corrected, that it was in February, 1580, *n.s.* that Raleigh was in trouble for a brawl with Sir Thomas Perrot; this occurred

a year earlier. The only addition to our knowledge of this early period which Mr. Stebbing makes, but this an important and interesting one, is that Walter Rawley is described as "late of Lyons Inn, Gent., Son of Walter R. of Budleigh, Co. Devon, Esq.," in the MS. books of the Middle Temple, under the date February 27th, 1575. This sweeps away all doubt as to the identity of the "Rawley" who prefixed verses to the 'Steel Glassee' of Gascoigne. In a fresh edition Mr. Stebbing will give the date of the battle of Jarnac as 1569, instead of 1669.

The section of this volume which deals with Raleigh's career in Ireland is one of the least happy. It is hurried and obscure, while the setting of political affairs and the necessary background are almost entirely omitted. The fact that Raleigh's friendship with Edmund Spenser must have begun in Ireland is not mentioned, and the extraordinary incident of Smerwick Bay very slightly touched upon. Mr. Stebbing's account of the Virginian enterprises, although it does not, so far as we are able to discover, supply a single new fact, is perhaps more copious than that of any single biographer. After this narrative will the ordinary journalist, we wonder, still speak of Raleigh's visit in person to North America? In dealing with the Armada Mr. Stebbing seems never to have met with the interesting discovery of Mr. J. Cordy Jeaffreson, which was fully described in these columns and in the latest life of Raleigh. He will, therefore, be glad to have his attention drawn to the fact that the Mayor of King's Lynn was paid 10*l.* "in respects he did in the yere of his maioraltie [between Michaelmas, 1587, and Michaelmas, 1588] entertayn Sir Walter Rawlye, knight, and his compayne in resortinge hether about the Queane's affairs." There can be no doubt that the occasion was the defence of the realm against the Spanish preparations for the invasion of England; and the record is important, since it is the only one we possess of Raleigh's actual movements as a member of that council of war which met in November, 1587, and probably continued to be active until the beginning of 1588.

A gracefully written chapter on Raleigh as a poet is introduced at this point, and pleasantly diversifies the narrative, being written in a freer style than the historical portions of the volume. Unfortunately Mr. Stebbing has nothing to add to the conjectures of Archdeacon Hannah, Mr. Bullen, and others. The lyrics of Raleigh, never collected in his own age, and loosely attributed to him in irresponsible MSS., can but very guardedly be taken as a positive part of his literary baggage. Mr. Stebbing examines with some care the difficult question of the date of Raleigh's lengthy lost poem of 'Cynthia.' He argues against the attribution of any part of it to the year 1589, but does not notice the fact that Lodovick Bryskett, under the name of Thestylis, is made to state distinctly that Raleigh's poem dealt with Queen Elizabeth, that

great Shepherdess that Cynthia hight,  
His Liege, his Lady, and his life's Regent.

It is true that these lines were written in 1591, but nothing is more certain than that they referred to an earlier period—to the

time, in fact, when Raleigh, Bryskett, and Spenser were all in Munster on the same errand. Mr. Stebbing seems hardly to have given his attention to the arguments which have been expended on showing that the Hatfield fragment, "the twenty-first book," really enables us to estimate the size as well as the form of that huge poem, Raleigh's *magnum opus*, which almost certainly existed at the close of the sixteenth century, and was probably destroyed during some vicissitude of Raleigh's adventurous life. The fact that a fragment of it is found at Hatfield points to the conjecture that it was seized in Durham House in 1603, and destroyed by Cecil's order.

We must not, however, continue to criticize Mr. Stebbing's pages in this minute manner. If our examination of them has been close, it gives us the fuller right to applaud the conscientious care with which they have been prepared, and their scrupulous accuracy in all essentials. It is impossible not to be a little disappointed that so careful a writer has, practically speaking, added nothing even to the mint, anise, and cummin of our knowledge. The ground had been so diligently swept that such additions were hardly to be expected. There remains, of course, the question, Why did Mr. Stebbing, in the face of so many existing lives of Sir Walter Raleigh, produce another? and to this, we confess, no reply seems forthcoming. He has not succeeded in throwing any new light on the career of his hero, and in the later and thornier passages of Raleigh's life he does no more than diligently reproduce all the evidence, and state the old well-worn problem over again. His book slips between the chairs of history and literature. It is not supplied with enough documentary evidence or novelty of any kind for the first; it is not brilliant enough for the second. We know not how it will strike others, but we are sorry to have to admit that we find Mr. Stebbing's book rather difficult to read. He never takes fire from his subject or puts colour or melody into his prose, but writes in short clear sentences, excellently suited to a narrative studded with documentary evidence, but hardly to the author of the life of the most romantic figure in English history. In a popular estimate of Sir Walter Raleigh it is highly important to be accurate, minute, and cautious, but a still more essential thing is not to be dull.

*The Camp-Fires of the Everglades; or, Wild Sports in the South.* By Charles E. Whitehead. (Edinburgh, Douglas.)

It may reasonably be doubted if the average well-educated Briton could state at short notice where the Everglades are situated, and, unless he is acquainted with the United States, his ideas respecting the entire peninsula of Florida are, probably, somewhat vague. At most he may be aware that numbers of Northerners annually fly from the rigours of their winter to Jacksonville or to the old Spanish town of St. Augustine on the eastern side; possibly he has heard that there is beautiful scenery up the river St. John, with its chain of inland lakes and labyrinth of tributaries navigable for hundreds of miles, or that Florida is famous for its oranges, and is, moreover, a nursery for

alligators, whose skins have recently become valuable for leather. To such a one this book will come as a revelation of unknown beauties and attractions, especially if he happen to be a naturalist or a sportsman; for the district described by the author is not that which is frequented by the valetudinarians aforesaid, but is on the western side, facing the Mexican Gulf, and reaching from the Suwannee river to the swamps at the southern extremity of the peninsula. These wooded swamps are the true Everglades, though that name is sometimes rather loosely applied.

In the preface it is stated that several chapters of this work have already appeared in America, and that in its present shape the volume merely consists of reminiscences of an actual hunting excursion and its camp-fire stories, together with various adventures worked in, the whole forming a narrative of events which may be supposed to have happened "many years ago." The epoch is, in fact, the winter of 1840-41, when the various Indian tribes, though deprived of their principal chiefs and broken by a ten years' struggle, were still on the warpath, and capable of considerable mischief. The author and his friend, a Dr. Pollok, from Virginia (who is the cynic and comic man of the party), have made the acquaintance of an impoverished Southerner named Jackson, who resides on a small estate—appropriately named "Far Away"—somewhere below Tampa Bay, with a few negro slaves and an only daughter. Notwithstanding her seclusion and rude surroundings, Lou' Jackson is full of natural refinement—too much so at first for Mike, a professional hunter and trapper of the Leather-stocking type, who is, of course, in love with her, while fully conscious of his inferiority.

At first a slight want of literary art is apparent in the arrangement of the narrative, and the nigger stories, though very well in their way, are rather of the "Uncle Remus" style, which is liable to become tedious, while a long irrelevant story about a Florida Pocahontas savours of padding; but, on the other hand, the sketches of scenery and sport are excellent. Especially good are those of the manatee in its seldom visited haunts, the alligators and the water-fowl; while the chapter devoted to the muskrat is really a model of description, and shows that the writer is imbued with the true feeling of the naturalist. As regards his wood-craft we have not detected a single mistake, although it must be admitted that his shoulder-gun brings down an almost incredible number of ducks at a shot; while knocking over an isolated mallard on one day and a single snipe on another, each with a rifle bullet, is rather "tall" shooting, even for Mike. But the story of the bear which got its head into the empty barrel (with its accompanying vignette) so irresistibly funny that it ought to be true, and the reader will share our regret that the poor beast had to be killed to prevent mischief.

So far the sport; but the adventure is the best. The party returns to "Far Away," to find the old black cook, Aunty Blase, lying scalped among the smouldering ashes of the settlement; and then the fugitives have to run the gauntlet of the Indians lying in ambush along both banks of the

river. Very stirring is the scene where Jackson, mortally wounded, is assisted by one of the faithful negroes to bring his rifle to the shoulder for a last—and successful—shot at the enemy; and full of pathos is the description of his burial beneath the ashes of the camp-fire, in order that the Indians might not find the corpse and get the scalp. Safe at last in Fort Brooke, at the head of Tampa Bay, Lou' Jackson goes to St. Augustine; while, as matters gradually settle down, the sportsmen resume their excursions, fishing for "tarpon," spearing turtle, and so on. Now comes the climax, to which the author has been working in the most dramatic manner. Left an orphan, Lou' has joined an uncle who is in charge of the lighthouse on Key Biscayne, off the point where the peninsula faces the Atlantic; and here they are visited by a band of nine marauding Indians. Nothing can be more thrilling than the description of the attack on the tower and the desperate position of the lonely girl, besieged in the lantern, after the murder of her uncle; though, of course, in due time the unerring rifle "speaks," and she is rescued by the omnipresent Mike, who, as we are led to infer, reaps the reward of his devotion. There is not a single false note from beginning to end of this episode, and we have read it again and again with a zest recalling that of our boyhood for the 'Last of the Mohicans'; it is, moreover, quite original, and in nowise borrowed from Fenimore Cooper or Mayne Reid.

Most of the illustrations are of high merit, the vignettes are quaint, the type is excellent, and altogether this is a fascinating book.

*A Supplement to Allibone's Critical Dictionary of English Literature and British and American Authors.* By John Foster Kirk. 2 vols. (Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company.)

THOUGH hardly literature, this work is so useful a handmaid to literature that its dismissal here in a line or two of comment would be an act of base ingratitude. Mr. Kirk has collected over ninety-three thousand titles of books; he has compiled over thirty-seven thousand biographical articles, and illustrated those articles with over seven thousand critical extracts: a truly American performance, equalled, perhaps, in point of patient endeavour by Poole's 'Index to Periodical Literature,' but executed far more intelligently than that unsatisfactory piece of work. At the same time we fear that prolonged drudgery has injured the historian of Charles the Bold, since the preface is a terrible example of inflated commonplace. For instance, the following sentiment is not altogether new, and is certainly clumsy:—

"No one would undertake to formulate the precise influences under which literary genius is awakened and fostered; but the inspiration and impulse must have an innate origin, and cannot spring from mere extraneous inducements or be stimulated by the march of material progress."

Of the prospects of literature Mr. Kirk is somewhat despondent, and at the completion of his labours

"could not but have an ominous apprehension that the end of his task would indicate no mere

arbitrary stopping-place, but would rather be found hereafter to coincide with the termination of an era some of whose latest glories had been watched by the older among us in their [? whose] dawn."

This is sheer nonsense, for though it is true enough that certain departments of literature—the novel conspicuously, and the drama notoriously—are on the decline, the date 1888, which is Mr. Kirk's landmark, is of no more significance than 1878 or 1883, or any other individual year in the last twenty or so. However, no one is obliged to read the preface of Mr. Kirk.

These volumes are avowedly a supplement, and, as such, are somewhat handicapped by the shortcomings of their predecessors. It is a grave defect in Allibone that the entries are not brought down to a common date, those from A to O extending only to 1850, while those from P to Z reach 1870. Mr. Kirk has felt constrained to dovetail his articles with those of the antecedent tomes, the result being that one takes up the career of Carlyle at the publication of the 'History of Frederick the Second,' 1858-1865, that of Lord Tennyson at 'Gareth and Lynette,' 1872. In any case the enumeration of an author's works which starts some distance down the list, though inevitable in the present instance, is somewhat perplexing, and the confusion is naturally increased when the starting-point is variable. We cannot help thinking that Mr. Kirk would have been well advised in fixing his limit, independently of Allibone, at the year 1850, even at the cost of repeating some of the latter's facts. And the increase in bulk thus necessitated might have been obviated, in part, by the omission of much that is not, properly speaking, literature at all, e.g., 'Reports of Actions tried in the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice' (art. "Cababé") and 'Public-House Reform: a Speech' (art. "Chamberlain, Right Hon. Joseph"). Mr. Balfour's address on 'The Pleasures of Reading' is, of course, quite a different matter. On the other hand, Mr. Kirk is to be warmly commended for his courage in stopping short at a definite date. At present his more unreasonable readers may complain that the Supplement already requires supplementing; but though they may be in doubt whether, say, Mr. Alfred Austin has published anything subsequently to 'Prince Lucifer,' 1887, they cannot assert erroneously that he has not—a conclusion that would have been justified by the entry of, say, 'The Life of Lord John Russell,' 1889, under Mr. Spencer Walpole's name.

The biographical notices appear to be at once accurate and succinct, though the editor must have had to sift much superfluous self-advertisement. Perhaps there is just a little too much information about Mr. Howard Vincent; and the M.C.C., we imagine, hardly recognizes Dr. Aveling as "an authority on crick-t." Another important subject, that of pseudonyms, has been carefully considered; the "John Strange Winters" and "F. Anstey's" are duly enrolled, while that portion of the civilized world which studies Mr. Kirk will now be aware that Mr. Barnett Smith is supposed in America to have perpetrated pastoral poems under the *nom de guerre* of "Guy Roslyn." Still we miss our "Rita"



neither under "Aunt" nor "Judy" is Mrs. Gatty's familiar title to be found; nor is every one aware that "The Earl and the Doctor" were Lord Pembroke and Mr. G. H. Kingsley. As for the lists of works, they seem wonderfully careful, though a few errors have crept in, e.g., Sir Charles Wilson's 'From Korti to Khartoum' was published in 1885, not 1883, and Mr. Besant wrote 'Sir Richard Whittington' alone, not in conjunction with Mr. James Rice. Sundry books are ascribed to "L. T. Meade" which are not hers. On the other hand, though a severe testing of the Supplement does not disclose the omission of a single important name, some of the articles are a trifle incomplete. Take, for instance, James Thomson, and you seek in vain for the *alias* of "B. V.," and for important poems such as 'Tasso to Leonora,' 'Insomnia,' and 'The Poet to his Muse.' Now James Thomson is a typical case of an author well deserving an exhaustive bibliography: his qualities were various and great. On the other hand, his methods of publication were so irregular that much of his best work appeared in obscure periodicals. The inevitable conclusion is that Mr. Kirk has paid attention to the covers of books rather than to their contents, and that his volumes, despite their many merits, must rank with Vapereau and not with the 'Dictionary of National Biography.'

As for the critical extracts, they have been selected, for the most part, from the weekly reviews, and generally with discrimination. This is especially the case with the historians; for instance, the faults of Bancroft's 'History of the American Constitution' are by no means extenuated; and that gigantic blunder, the publication of Buckle's commonplace books under the title of his 'Miscellaneous and Posthumous Works,' suffers due castigation. Sometimes there is overpraise—for instance, in the case of Mr. Seeborn's 'English Village Community'—and occasionally something not unlike downright injustice, e.g., Mr. Marion Crawford's 'Mr. Isaacs' ought not to lie for ever under the ban of the *Nation* as "only not an outrage because it is so palpably absurd." Most of the novelists, however, have little cause for complaint, though it is difficult to discover why Sheridan Le Fanu's 'In a Glass Darkly' is praised, and his excellent 'Uncle Silas' passed over in silence. A curious piece of criticism is that which prefers Mr. Evelyn Ashley's portion of the 'Life of Lord Palmerston' to Lord Dalling's. Most people would be inclined to say exactly the reverse, for the Bulwer volumes, if discursive, are distinctly clever, whereas those which bear Mr. Ashley's name are but humdrum. On the whole, however, Mr. Kirk must be allowed to be a man with much general information, which he is able to put to excellent purposes. In particular he is fully aware that quantity in literature by no means coincides with quality, and certain flagrant book-makers—one of whom occupies a whole page—are treated with scant ceremony. With a grim sense of the lack of finality in weekly journalism, as in everything here below, he sometimes gives estimates which are directly contradictory. For example, the *Saturday* reviewer was bored by Mr. Hall Caine's

'Cobwebs of Criticism,' while the more tolerant *Athenæum* considered the idea good, and the comments judicious. Again, Mr. Keane, writing in the *Academy*, set down Mr. W. M. Kerr's volumes entitled 'The Far Interior' as prolix; the *Spectator*, *per contra*, proclaimed that "this is one of the most charming books of travel that we ever remember to have read." The weakest departments of literature, as it is treated by Mr. Kirk, are those of scholarship and science—a defect which may be possibly due to his own shortcomings, but for which the sources of his professedly second-hand erudition are probably in a measure to blame. There is no attempt to appreciate Conington's 'Virgil,' or Prof. Mayor's 'Juvenal,' or Dr. Furnivall's contributions to philology and the study of early texts. Again, that is an untrustworthy guide which is dumb concerning the importance of Sir William Thomson's 'Mathematical and Physical Papers,' Sir James Paget's 'Clinical Lectures,' and Sir Richard Owen's monumental work on 'The Fossil Mammals of Australia.' Now classical, philosophical, and scientific journals are not wanting either in England or America, and they should have been more freely consulted. To conclude—the Supplement to Allibone is hardly a first-rate authority, but it is invaluable for purposes of rough-and-ready reference.

*Events in the Taiping Rebellion: being Reprints of MSS. copied by General Gordon, C.B., in his own Handwriting.* With Monograph, Introduction, and Notes by A. Egmont Hake. With Portrait and Map. (Allen & Co.)

WE had imagined that the library of Gordon literature was already full, and especially that Mr. Egmont Hake had said all that he had to say about his heroic cousin, and certainly we were not at all prepared for the mysterious addition which he has now made to the list. We say "mysterious" because it is almost impossible to understand by whom the new book is written. The title-page says it consists of "reprints of MSS. copied by General Gordon in his own handwriting"; but this does not advance the matter. Without stopping to inquire in whose handwriting save "his own" General Gordon was accustomed to "copy MSS.," we must profess complete bewilderment as to the meaning of the title. In what sense is the document a "reprint," where was it printed before, and who wrote the "MSS." which Gordon "copied in his own handwriting"? The mystery of the title-page is left unsolved in the work itself. The reader is nowhere informed as to the authorship or authority of these strange "MSS." This can hardly be an oversight in an editor of Mr. Hake's experience, and if intentional we can only say that it forms a serious drawback to the value of the narrative. An anonymous historical work demands careful scrutiny before it can be accepted, and 'Events in the Taiping Rebellion' is practically anonymous. The mere fact that Gordon copied certain MSS. is no proof whatever that they are trustworthy, though it shows that a good judge thought them important.

If the book is to rank as an authority we require something more than the assurance

that Gordon considered it worth copying. Prof. Wellhausen might copy the book of Numbers for his own purposes, but it would not follow that he vouched for its accuracy. And whilst we are upon editorial duties, it may be suggested that when in a second edition, if not before, the mystery of these "MSS. copied in General Gordon's own handwriting" is explained, it is most desirable that there should be a table of contents and an index. As it is, the reader finds some difficulty in determining where the several parts of the different writers, Gordon, Mr. Hake, and Major Story, begin. As a further convenience it would be well to initial editorial notes, which at present cannot always be distinguished from those (if any) belonging to the mysterious "MSS." These notes are often extracts from published works, but no page references are given, and the mere title "Blue-book" is hardly satisfactory to the student who wants to consult the context in the original authority.

The narrative itself—whether "Lancelot's or another's"—bears the impress of care and soberness; indeed, it is sober even to aridity. Here is the account of the well-known episode with the artillerymen:—

"The artillery evinced their disgust [at their removal to Qunisan] by refusing to fall in, and in a proclamation they threatened to blow the Chinese authorities away with the small guns, and the Europeans with the big guns. Their non-commissioned officers, as usual, all paraded, and were sent for by Major Gordon, who asked them the reason why the men did not fall in, and who wrote the proclamation. They, of course, did not know; and on Major Gordon telling them he would be obliged to shoot one in every five, they evinced their objection to this proceeding by a groan. The most prominent in this was a corporal, who was dragged out, and a couple of infantry who were standing by were ordered to load, and directed to shoot the mutineer, which one did without the slightest hesitation. The remainder were marched back and locked up for an hour, with the threat that if the name of the writer of this proclamation was not given, and if the men did not fall in before an hour had elapsed, the arrangement of shooting one in five would be carried out. At the expiration of an hour the men all fell in, and the name of the culprit, who had run away, was given up. Since that time we had no trouble, the men were thoroughly cowed, and the non-commissioned officers—the real offenders—dared no longer foster sedition. It is to be regretted, however, that one life should have been sacrificed; but this saved many others which must have been lost if a stop had not been put to the independent way of the men."

One seems to recognize Gordon's own hand (not merely his copy) in this quiet, dry report of one of the most critical situations in his daring career; but admiration for his reticence as a soldier is tempered by regret for the literary ruin of a splendid scene. Yet this is, perhaps, the most graphic and spirited passage in the narrative! Still, if it be really Gordon's own account of his first signal success in command of foreign troops and mixed adventurers, it must possess historical importance, and in spite of its reserve a biographical value, which justify its publication, and, in our view, necessitate its authentication.

Mr. Hake has prefixed a vivid sketch of Gordon's career as "leader of men," which shows insight and grasp of character. The

style is perhaps somewhat too emphatic and ejaculatory—one seems to hear echoes of Hugo, and a strain of Mr. Walter Besant—but the spirit is excellent. There is, however, necessarily too much of politics in it for detailed criticism in these columns. Everybody will approve the frank hero-worship of the writer, though many may wish for a more reserved, but not less strenuous expression of it.

*Fin de l'Indépendance Bohême.* Par Ernest Denis.—I. *Georges de Podiebrad.* II. *Les Premiers Hapsbourgs.* (Paris, Armand Colin & Co.)

IN these two volumes M. Denis continues the subject opened twelve years ago by his careful and finished study of Huss and the Hussite wars. Together they form an uninterrupted history of Bohemian affairs from the dawn of Utraquism to its eclipse and the destruction of national liberty in the disaster of the White Mountain in 1620. The present volumes bear, were that necessary, even more incontestable witness than the study on Huss to M. Denis's fitness for the task. He is an artist; but his work possesses the excellences we are used to expect only from the artisan in history. The range of his reading is of the widest; upon the achievement of the historian's primary aim—to see the thing as it in very deed happened, to place himself in a personal relation of the utmost intimacy to it—he has lavished time and reflection, seeking light in all imaginable sources, in the gravest as in the flimsiest performances, in works that have the most direct as in those that have only a remote or incidental bearing upon the subject. His style is clear, rapid, and precise. He uses figures charily, but with effect. It is a style which, within its limits, lends itself equally to description and to the delineation of character. The studies in character are unquestionably the distinguishing feature of the work; but the presentations of the wild waste of anarchy under the Jagellons; of the league of Zelená Hora, the insidious advance of the Catholic reaction, the strength and weakness of the Unity; of the conflict of meanness, madness, and genuine greatness that wrung from Rudolph the charter of Protestant freedom; and of the infatuated blindness and desperate resolve that prepared in Prague the prelude to the Thirty Years' War, atone for some unavoidable monotony—say, the preliminaries to the election of Ferdinand—and take rank beside even the vivid portraiture of Podiebrad, Rokytana, Lladislas, of the Hapsburg emperors, of Lev Rosmítal, Augusta, and Zierotyn. Here, for instance, is how M. Denis describes the position of Augusta, late in his stormy day, undaunted by the tedious years of imprisonment, resolutely unconscious that whilst he lay in his dungeon the world had passed him by—that a new generation had arisen to whom he was no more a living leader, but already a memory:—

"He would listen to no remonstrances, for his fancy was enthralled by the rôle of a chief commanding his party from the depths of a dungeon, and his far-seeing ambition began to arrange the means of realizing his dreams. The Council, violating its deepest convictions, yielded—from gratitude, from reverence for a martyr's devotion, and from an un-

easy fear of the rash measures of which it judged Augusta capable. But his obstinacy gradually gave rise to bitter criticism, and obedience became more and more reluctant. The years slipped past, and time wrought on at its ceaseless task of transformation; the younger men bore with ever-increasing impatience the yoke of a master they had never known; they claimed, as Augusta had claimed before them, the right to live and to act for themselves. Thus the train was laid for the division which, when the hour arrived, parted the exiles and the bulk of their party in fatal strife. History knows no more mournful spectacle than those conflicts in which the antagonists seem equally guilty; stubborn selfishness on the one side, neglect and ingratitude on the other. But neither in reality is guilty, for both are victims of one of the general laws that bind mankind, the battle for existence."

Something of the same charm hangs round the opening sentences of an equally admirable passage on Zierotyn, one of the shy, subtle natures which the historian finds it so difficult to examine thoroughly, whose character reflects strangely the dominant weaknesses of the national movement in his age—a daring that was not daring enough, an obstinate hope in conciliation when such hope meant only hesitation, and hesitation, disaster:—

"Life proved hard to Zierotyn: he alone discerned the mark to strive towards, but failed to persuade even those beside whom he fought; he pointed out the abyss upon which he saw his country rushing, and for his fidelity reaped only suspicion and incredulous disdain; he was forced to aid in the overthrow of his party, the dispersion of his Church, the destruction of national liberty, and at last died in exile! What destiny is more bitter? Yet one crowning anguish was spared him—he never knew regret nor doubt."

George of Podiebrad is necessarily a great figure in M. Denis's first volume. His character is one rare in any age, in the history of any nation. In Bohemia, the gloom that precedes, the defeat and shame that follow his reign; the splendour and European prestige during its continuance; his own qualities as a ruler, high courage, self-sacrificing devotion to the Czech ideal, brilliant military talents; the large tolerance of his political and religious views; the resolute patience with which he met the irritating and treacherous policy of Rome; the chivalry that was almost weakness shown in the war with Mathias; and with all this, the fact that he is the one native king between the last of the Przemyslides and the first of the Hapsburgs, mark him inevitably as a national hero. Ottokar is too little known, and he was beaten in fair fight, in a questionable cause and by inferior numbers. Huss's valour is, in a measure, passive, his influence partial. Ziska's genius is clouded by fanaticism and by the ferocity of his followers; he is not the thunderous outlaw of Lenau's poem, but he remains the symbol of revolt, the battle cry of the hour when, in the omnipresence of wrong, universal havoc seems the only right. Podiebrad, on the other hand, is to Bohemia what William the Silent is to Holland—the ruler who most perfectly embodies the nation's aspirations then as now, the best loved, the most regretted, the type of its highest wisdom, strength, and calm. Yet so effectual were the Jesuits' efforts after Bila-Hora to destroy the nation's past by destroying its records

that until Palacky wrote Podiebrad was practically unknown even in Bohemia. He was but the shadow of a great name, hardly more distinct in form and feature than Przemysl or Venceslas. M. Denis's portrait impresses us as the fairest and, rightly looked at, as perhaps the greatest in conception that has yet been traced. Palacky's wonderful fourth volume bears ineffaceably the stamp of the tumult amid which it was written: the details, the facts, are unimpeachable; but the interpretation is a passionate eulogy, a dithyramb rather than a deliberate judgment. In Podiebrad Palacky paints the ideal Czech liberator, the hero who is to lead the warriors asleep in the hillside of Blaník, as he was figured by the men of 1848—less impressive, therefore, than the reality, as the Czech cause itself was less impressive in mid-nineteenth century than in mid-fifteenth. Bachmann's work has undeniable power—a terseness and concentrated fire that recall Hornayr, and lift it above the familiar click-clack of the German history-machine; but it is marred throughout by a sturdy truly German hatred, distrust, and misunderstanding of things Slavonic. That M. Denis's is the final estimate were a rash assertion; there is nothing final in art, and to its chosen themes history returns again and again. The chief steps in Podiebrad's rise to supreme power may be briefly indicated.

Like Cromwell and in Cromwell's phrase, he was "by birth a gentleman, living neither in any considerable height, nor yet in obscurity." The old keep of the lords of Kunstatt, in which, on St. George's Day, 1420, he was born, still stands on the right bank of the Elbe near the high road from Prague to Koeniggratz. His father and his grandfather followed Ziska's star so long as it was above the horizon. He was himself present when a boy of fourteen in the ranks at Lipau, where Procopius the Great and the Taborite cause fell together. In an atmosphere of great ideas his character developed rapidly. Four years later, in rallying to the aid of Ptatchek, he won his first military distinction by a daring repulse of Austrian cavalry. At twenty-one he was made captain of the section of Boleoslav, and on Ptatchek's death in 1444 he was at once elected leader of the Hussite party. His aim from the outset was to end the desolating anarchy in Bohemia; to give peace to the people, broken, dispirited, and worn out by the relentless warfare of fifteen years; and to weld the opposing factions into a great national party capable of defending Bohemia against the double peril from Germany and from Rome. A dashing stroke placed Prague in his hands in 1448, Menhart, the Romanist governor, a temporizing, foolish old man, dying of chagrin and unwholesome air shortly afterwards. Ulrich of Rosenberg, a feudal baron of the Percy type, remained, but George had now the nation with him, and in 1452 his election as administrator-general of the kingdom broke up Ulrich's party. The coronation of Lladislas next year established George's power, for the young king was as wax in his hands. The years that follow form one of the most dazzling and characteristic periods in Czech history. The guiding influence from the first was Podiebrad's, but the nation's gratitude, the sovereign's youth



and physical beauty, his sudden death at seventeen on the eve of marriage with a French princess, have lent the memory of Ladislas a halo not unlike that which surrounds Enzo or Conradin, though the boy's best-known independent act—the crafty arrest and execution of the great Hunyadi's son—was a bad one and of sinister presage. Podiebrad, as king, realized for Bohemia the schemes he had framed as a mere party chief. He repressed anarchy within and made her feared abroad. Twenty years of tranquillity, if not of unbroken peace, afforded leisure for reflection, soothing old discords, deepening and strengthening the national consciousness of unity; with security commerce returned, and men's energies were once more devoted to learning, literature, and art. Under him Bohemia acts for the last time as a commanding European power. But her greatness passes with him, for he left no successor and could not bind the future. Ambition and egoism, ever the dearest charges of mediocrity against genius, have been vehemently urged against Podiebrad. But there is no trace of either in his opening career, when concealment was hardest. There is nothing in his election as administrator to suggest the 18th Brumaire—nothing in the nation's free choice of a king that resembles the tortuous intrigue ushered in by the pamphlet of Fontanes. Nor was it an egoist who let his foe quit unscathed the valley of Villemov. He did not become emperor, and history disregards hypotheses. His wisdom was dashed with knight-errantry, but it was the age of Charles the Bold as well as of Louis XI. His last act fitly crowns his life: he ensured Bohemia's peace by renouncing his son's claims to the throne—a sacrifice that startled even his enemies and showed the Czech king superior to a weakness to which a Cromwell yielded.

The chapters on literature and art, the account of the rise of the towns, the earnest and sternly written pages on the social conditions of the period—an anarchic baronage, a besotted, grasping priesthood, a disillusioned, degenerating people—are features of the work which we can only mention. The treatment of the Hapsburgs is conspicuous for its fairness and discriminating insight. M. Denis recognizes the possibilities in front of Austria—Austro-Hungary will never become a name—protesting with reason against the classic theory of Montesquieu. Towards the Hussite reform his attitude is practically unchanged since his former work. He places its distinctive character in strong relief, separated from the course of Western European history as the Czechs themselves are separated by their blood, their national and individual sympathies, their history, their gloomy forests and mountains. It was not the result of Wiclif's effort, it was not the prelude to the Reformation. The Czechs did not wish to break with Catholic unity, nor did they demand in the name of Europe universal administration of the chalice. But for themselves as a nation they clung to the latter idea with a devotion that defeat only hardened. Luther understood Hussitism as little as Pius II. "Choose," he wrote to Prague, "for Rome or against Rome!" But it was exactly this choice that Bohemia never made, could in the nature of things

never make, and, coming between the mighty opposing creeds, was dashed into apparently complete and irremediable ruin.

M. Denis's philosophy is tinged with the higher pessimism which seems inseparable from the study of life in its actual conditions, whether displayed on the arena of nations or on the narrower stage of a village in Picardy. It is the faith of history, as if Phthonos were still the sole god it acknowledged, blighting with jealous malignity high aims, pure ideals, self-consecrating endeavours. A deep consciousness of this struggle—a consciousness that has informed the greatest achievements in history-writing from Herodotus to Carlyle—pervades the book, enabling the writer to twist his theme into the universal woof of things, transforming his subject-matter so that it becomes not so much Podiebrad, the Hapsburgs, and Bohemia, as a phase of the unending conflict of evil and good.

*Calendar of the Patent Rolls preserved in the Public Record Office: Edward III., 1327-1330. (Stationery Office.)*

THIS volume, in the significance it bears, is in many ways one of the most important that a Deputy-Keeper of the Records has ever sent forth. For it is not only the herald and firstfruits of a calendar colossal in its proportions, but also the most prominent outcome of the new development in the labours of the Public Record Office initiated by Mr. Maxwell Lyte. Since the cessation of the series of works published by the old Record Commission, the materials with which they dealt have been comparatively so neglected that the Pipe Roll Society was formed to continue, by voluntary efforts, their publication for at least the twelfth century. Meanwhile, the staff of the Record Office have been mainly employed on the calendars of those State Papers which the amalgamation of the State Paper Office with their department brought within their sphere. Great progress having now been made in that direction, the Deputy-Keeper is returning to the work of the Record Commission, and resuming it, in the form of calendars, on a very extensive scale. It must not be supposed that his predecessors had made no efforts to this end, but their system of publishing scraps of calendars as appendices to their annual reports can only be described as detestable, so far as the student is concerned, and has been wisely abandoned by Mr. Lyte. Students have to thank his new policy for the valuable 'Calendar of Ancient Deeds,' of which the first volume has already appeared, as well as for the present calendar, while the Close Rolls have also been taken in hand, and the Parliamentary Petitions of Edward I. entrusted to the able editorship of Prof. Maitland.

The Patent Rolls, we learn, are to be calendared from 1272 to 1509, and as only some three and a half years are dealt with in this massive volume of nearly 800 pages some idea may be formed of the vastness of the task. But as the reigns of Edward I. and Edward II. are being simultaneously attacked it is evidently intended to push on as rapidly as possible with the work.

The meagre preface of some ten pages is of quite official baldness, and is devoted in

the first place to a recapitulation of previous attempts to deal with the rolls, and in the second to the general rules laid down "in order to secure uniformity." As these rules, to which the Deputy-Keeper has devoted, it is understood, his personal attention, are likely to exert a considerable influence—affording as they do a basis for a general understanding among workers—attention may be called to one or two points of difficulty, and therefore of doubt. "In many cases," it is said, "it is practically impossible to distinguish between hereditary surnames and local descriptions of persons." This is true, and it illustrates the care with which the calendar is compiled that such styles as "A filius B de C" are doubly indexed, as they should be, under B and C. The great stumbling-block, of course, in this matter is the ambiguous use of "filius" and "fitz." It is impossible, we think, to frame a rule that meets all objections, but some convention might perhaps be established. The objection to Mr. Lyte's decision that "filius" must never be rendered "fitz" is that such descriptions as "Fulk son of Warin," "Henry son of John," and "Robert son of Payn," which occur in this volume, are actually misleading and wrong. Different systems are applied to place-names and surnames, the former being Englished from their Latinizations, while the latter are left as rendered on the rolls. It is certainly pedantic to retain such forms as "de mortuo mari" and "de monte acuto" on the pages of a calendar in English, and yet Mr. Lyte makes good his case when he appeals to "de monte alto," which took, we may observe, on English lips the obvious form "mounthaw," though the peerage-makers would probably insist on our rendering it as "Maude."

Leaving these rules with praise for the care with which they are compiled, we come to that important matter the index, here extending over two hundred pages, more than a quarter of the volume. We have rarely seen a more conscientious or admirable piece of work. The identification of the place-names and their arrangement under modern names are both to be specially commended, and the boon to future workers is invaluable. The cross-references, perhaps, might be extended a little further, as in the case of "Dublin" and "Dyvelyn," or "Hill" and "Hulle." In the latter case the present arrangement confuses "Hill" (Hulle) with "Kingston-on-Hull." And if "William Jonesprest of Sutton" was the priest of John of Sutton, surely "Henry Alvesprest de Bello Campo" should be similarly indexed.

The only regret we have to express is that it should not be possible to provide an *index rerum*. It may be admitted that this may be too much to attempt in a work on such a scale; and yet it is unfortunate that while topographers and genealogists—whose labours we should be the last to decry—are here provided with a royal road, the historical student is left to grope his way through these pages without signpost or guide. Would it not be possible, in the introductions to future volumes, to call attention, at least, to matters of special interest? The mass of curious and valuable information to be extracted from these rolls would be surprising, we think, to many. To the genea-

logist, of course, the licences for enfeoffment are settlements which provide trustworthy pedigrees of three or more generations. But we are here concerned with the historical student, who will welcome this flood of authentic information on matters political, financial, and social. The period covered by the volume before us is that of the joint domination of Mortimer and Queen Isabella. The reader is carried down to the summer of 1330, when Mortimer and his friends were assembling the forces of the several counties "to resist the king's rebels." In these pages can be traced the process by which the earl and queen provided for themselves at the cost of the country, and it is singular that in one of the grants to the latter the "Jews' houses" at Colchester and Northampton are included (1327). On the other hand, pardons were obtained by the supporters of the late king for their share in the "rebellion." In the midst of these affairs of state we come across this curious list of objects belonging to the chapel of the ill-fated Edward II.:

"A chasuble of red cloth of Tarsus sprinkled with divers flowers of Indian colour, together with alb and amesse, stole and maniple, and two frontals.....the gift of the queen; two towells, one with parure; one chalice silver-gilt, with the cross engraved in the foot and six enamelled knots in the centre, and, in the paten, one cross engraved with extended hand.....one cross of ivory painted with four images standing on each side, the base whereof was of ivory and cedar, and round the base six images of ivory painted, standing in tabernacles.....one missal of the chapel of Windsor Park.....a thorn from our Lord's crown, in a gold box ornamented with divers precious stones.....a tooth of St. Edward the Confessor.....a bone of St. George."

Among matters financial may be mentioned the elaborate list of customs granted to Newcastle-on-Tyne for the walling and defence of the town, the corrupt commissariat arrangements for the Scottish campaigns, and the ruinous loans from foreign merchants. Riots and violence by sea and land account for many of the entries, while matters of trade, as the worsted of Norfolk, claim no small share. In one respect the calendar contains even more than we are led to expect. A most interesting charter of Henry I. (not later than 1118) is entered on these rolls, also one of Henry II. (which should have been so indexed), and others of later kings and dignitaries. Several early grants to religious or charitable foundations are found on them, and attention may be called to those of Robert de Hay and Roger de Bercherols as exceedingly early. Thus this calendar will be most valuable for a future 'Cartularium Anglo-Normannicum.'

#### NOVELS OF THE WEEK.

*A Baffling Quest.* By Richard Dowling. 3 vols. (Ward & Downey.)

*Begun in Jest.* By Mrs. Newman. 3 vols. (Murray.)

*Priests and People: a No-Rent Romance.* By the Author of 'Lotus.' 3 vols. (Eden, Remington & Co.)

*Jedwood Justice.* By Albany De Fonblanque. 3 vols. (Bentley & Son.)

*The Romance of a Chalet.* By Mrs. Campbell Praed. 2 vols. (White & Co.)

*Leslie's Fate; and Hilda.* By Capt. Andrew Haggard. (Bristol, Arrowsmith; London, Simpkin, Marshall & Co.)

*The Mystic Quest: a Tale of Two Incarnations.* By William Kingsland. (George Allen.)

*The Count of Monte Cristo.* By Alexandre Dumas. 4 vols. (Osgood, McIlvaine & Co.)

*The Odd Number.* Thirteen Tales by Guy de Maupassant. Translated by Jonathan Sturges, with an Introduction by Henry James. (Same publishers.)

MR. DOWLING has elaborated a body-snatching case, suggested, he says, by an American instance, and carrying the reader's recollection to a more notorious example nearer home. We cannot think the gruesomeness of the subject much alleviated by his method of treatment. There is a portentous amount of dialogue, too many tears, too much sentiment altogether expended upon the disappearance of the mortal husk of one who in life would never have been missed. Granby, the country lawyer, is rather a good character, but he sadly loses his hold over affairs after his accident, and we part with him with more affection than respect. Although there is nothing locally distinctive in dialect about the piratical longshoremen of the "Seafolk" coast, Jimmie Ware, the boatman, in his relation to his henchman Burch and his rival Purkiss is something of an East Anglian study. The idea of his getting Burch into a blind asylum,—

"not that Burch suffered from defective eyesight, but because he knew of only two kinds of asylums—those for the blind and those for the insane; and it would be preposterous to suppose that any man who had been so long associated with a person of his own degree of intellect could himself ever fail in intellect,"—is distinctly good, and certainly indicative of one type of local character.

The two young ladies with aspirations in Mrs. Newman's book are passably interesting, and Mabel's experiment of acting as an amateur governess is worth considering, although, as more than one of her employers points out, such competition is a little hard upon the needy professional. We have little patience with the love story. Mabel and Gerard could not have played at cross-purposes so long without the mention of the one name which would have put all things right. To our thinking the man is rather the more imbecile, but Mabel is unconscionably silly. Why should our old friend Isaac Watts be misquoted for the millionth time? He never said "it is their nature to." No one of his day could have done it.

Let bears and lions growl and fight,  
It is their nature, too.

Irish novels of late years have generally been dreary, and 'Priests and People' is no exception to the rule. It is not to be wondered at that the author has chosen to withhold his name, for while internal evidence goes a good way to prove that only a native could have written this book, its pages paint all classes and parties alike in the blackest and most sinister colours. Indeed, it is only too evident that the author would gladly see the island sunk with all its inhabitants at the bottom of the ocean. Outrage, murder, suicide, and ferocious cruelty—these are the chief incidents in this sordid and repellent chronicle, varied here and there by instances of the devotion,

generally misplaced and ill-starred, of a few unhappy women. The only couple who emerge from all this trouble and misery unscathed are comparatively uninteresting, and the hero is a coarse young man, whose favourite term of endearment to his lady love is "devil." There is an immense amount of dialect in the book; but we have the best authority for asserting that no Irish peasant, least of all a Kerry man, pronounces Eileen "Oileen," or seeing "saying," while as for the local colour, it is inaccurate to talk of towering forest trees on the shores of Dingle Bay.

The "Jedwood justice" from which Dick Birkett, afterwards Lord Wadehurst, suffers, turns on a false accusation of elopement. The machinery of the plot is intricate and uncommonly well worked. And although ingenuity and multiplicity of incident are the cardinal features of Mr. De Fonblanque's book, there are many passages which rise to a higher level. The description of the lonely unsympathetic father, who is moved so deeply by his son Frank's response to the first overture of kindness; the love-making between Dick and Stella, one of the most natural and yet piquant scenes in that kind we remember; the "tailor-made complacency" of Bertha, which carries her so high and so far after she has crushed her better self, and married an elderly man for position,—are all full of insight and expressive power. The legal accessories of the story are not without charm. There is a good judge, who when

"reminded of the precautions taken by the correspondent to baffle pursuit, and of that portion of his letter to his deceased cousin in which he wrote 'If my plans go right (and I think they will), the devil himself cannot catch us,' replied dryly that this was merely an expression of opinion by one person as to what another person (not before the Court) could not do."

Also the proceedings before the local bench on the discovery of F. G.'s body are well reported. But the author should not quote Horace—"nec semper tenuit arcum Apollo"!

The chalet at Champéry is the scene of a touching romance, but the reader is consoled by the fact that self-sacrifice gets its reward even in this world. The story is slight, though the Swiss accessories make it picturesque; but the theme is treated in a manner which shows it has impressed itself seriously, and should be seriously received.

Capt. Haggard continues his excursions into the realm of the supernatural, the uncanny, and the uncomfortable in both of his new stories. Even his brother has achieved nothing more audacious than the discovery of an Indian valley, with temple, tank, crocodiles, and cranes all complete, in the heart of the Highlands. But then it is only fair to state that the narrator was a Scottish earl with a congenital gift of second sight. The moral of 'Leslie's Fate' is that second marriages are undesirable where the first wife is a sorceress, and it is enforced by a decidedly gruesome *dénouement*. In 'Hilda' we learn the dangers of nocturnal visits to haunted rooms. Capt. Haggard is neither a finished nor a refined writer, and dwells on the beauties of the nude in an unnecessarily complacent manner. On the other hand, he carries his readers along by the audacity of his imagination and the brisk-



ness of his narrative. The illustrations are not the least successful feature in the book.

If we consider the splendid opportunities afforded to the novelist by the doctrine of reincarnation, it cannot be honestly said that Mr. Kingsland has been very successful in his appeal to the exoteric reader. 'The Mystic Quest' is not a novel; it is an elaborate guide-book to theosophy cast in the form of a tale, and though fluently and even eloquently written, it is so destitute of incident and humour on the one hand, and so full of exegesis on the other, that the uninitiated, in whose interest the work is obviously written, are more likely to be repelled than attracted by the didactic method of the author. There is one point in which an unregenerate reviewer may be fairly allowed to call in question the accuracy of a writer possessed of such special knowledge as Mr. Kingsland: we can never believe that "Cid" and "Di" were the appellations by which persons of the fourth century A.D. were in the habit of addressing each other, when their proper names were Alcidas and Dione respectively.

The prefatory note to the new translation of 'Monte Cristo' says that the old English version of that book is "very imperfect," which, speaking from memory, we believe to be not altogether unjust. The present version is not perfect: "Larboard your helm" is ridiculous, and a "tartan" in English is a plaid or an Assyrian leader, but not a rig. Still it will serve very fairly for those who are unfortunate enough not to be able to read the original. There seem to be no liberties taken with the text. The volumes are of a convenient size, clearly printed, presented in stout and not uncomely binding, and illustrated here and there with photo-lithographs, or something of the kind, of sufficient merit. Therefore the issue may very fairly take its place as the standard English version of 'Monte Cristo.' As to the merit of the book itself there is no need to say much. There is an irreconcilable, but not necessarily otherwise than amicable, disagreement between lovers of Dumas as to the relative excellence of this and the D'Artagnan cycle; but the best way is, no doubt, to like both. Of the first part, at least, of 'Monte Cristo' there are no two opinions among lovers of romance.

It is rather a pity that Mr. Henry James's introduction could not have been prefixed to a better translation of Maupassant. On the introduction itself we need not descant. As Mr. James himself says, "Silence is the best disapproval, and to take people up with an earnest grip, only to put them down, is to add to the vain gesticulation of the human scene." Some will, of course, say that such a sentence, in its laboured non-naturalness, is a piece of very vain literary gesticulation indeed; but they too, or Mr. James's principles, ought to be silent. On our own it is difficult to be quite silent about such absurd evidence of ignorance of French or want of command of English as, "You are going to mind your own business, curse you!" We have not M. de Maupassant's text before us, but it is pretty certain that he wrote "vous allez," and quite certain that "vous allez" in this context does not mean "You are going to," but "Be good enough to," or something still more peremptory. The

idiom is common enough, and nobody is fit to translate modern French who does not know it. So, again, "The body of the wolf [a strangled one] became *lax*"; the translation becomes so, if Mr. Sturges likes. However, such laxity (Mr. Sturges repeats it at least once elsewhere, and therefore cannot know the difference between "*lax*" and "*limp*") cannot quite spoil Guy de Maupassant, whose faults hardly appear at all here, while no stronger testimony to his merits could be given than the fact that they emerge even through such a disguise as this.

#### EDUCATIONAL LITERATURE.

*Familiar Objects of Everyday Life.* By Joseph Hassell. (Blackie & Son.)—This handbook has been prepared for the use of teachers, and is said to be a complete manual of instruction in all the subjects grouped in the New Code for the year just expired as class subjects in elementary science. The work has been carefully prepared and is abundantly supplied with clear explanatory diagrams; but it does not cover the whole of the ground comprehended in schedule ii. of the Code and its supplements. The frequently recurring references to other educational works by the same author are no adequate compensation for deficiencies in this one, and, indeed, accentuate them in a most irritating way. The volume before us is a satisfactory teacher's handbook for half the course—more or less—prescribed for the seven standards in an elementary school. So far, however, as it goes, Mr. Hassell's volume will be found, on the whole, a trustworthy guide to teachers who may wish to make elementary science a useful training to their pupils. Mr. Hassell assumes that "the teacher's discretion will insure the right use of the information given": let us hope that the assumption will be verified. This "teacher's discretion" is something not always successfully developed by the training college course to which most of our elementary school masters are subjected. Mr. Hassell, in his treatment of the different branches of elementary science tabulated in the Code, shows admirably how experiment and observation, made so far as possible by the scholars themselves, must be the basis of all real science teaching, however elementary. If he can bring this truth home to elementary teachers, his volume will be of the greatest use, and the result will more than counterbalance the ill effects of the few erroneous and faulty or insufficient verbal explanations which we detect in his pages. Mr. Hassell seems more at home in the subjects treating of animal and plant life than in those treating of facts and phenomena in the inorganic world. It is amusing to find that in the section devoted to the "building of a house" the architect, whose functions are detailed, is made to draw a ground plan which glaringly violates the building rules of the Education Department, and of the two arrangements that sanctioned by my Lords is manifestly preferable. Certain statements also concerning building materials need correction. In the description of quarries in stratified rocks we read that "the lines of strata are called cleavages." "Cleavageline" may be a quarryman's term, but if so this explanation is hopelessly bad; "cleavage" certainly is a common word in geological and mineralogical works, and in either case it has a definite meaning wholly distinct from "lines of strata," whatever these may be. In another place we gather that Mr. Hassell considers sandstone to be a mineral; if this be so, he would, we suppose, consider a box of wooden toys a vegetable. Mr. Hassell no doubt clearly appreciates the distinction between weight and density; but it is not fair to lead an imperfectly instructed class teacher to think that in the case of sandstone they are one and the same. Nor is it

correct to teach him that sandstone is insoluble in acid because it will not dissolve in hydrochloric acid. The statement is true for practical purposes, but it is made on an insufficient basis of experiment. There are common acids other than hydrochloric. Mr. Hassell has a habit of making what we cannot but call unguarded statements; he does not always weigh his words with sufficient care, and thus an unintended, inaccurate impression will often remain in the reader's mind. We find, for instance, in one passage *grains* and *crystals* used as equivalent interchangeable terms; and in another we are led to infer an incorrect account of the word *magnet*. Faults of this kind should not occur in any book, but they are most hurtful and least tolerable in a manual of instruction.

*Handbook of Slöjd.* By Otto Salomon. (Philip & Son.)—We are glad to welcome the 'Handbook of Slöjd,' edited and partly written by Herr Otto Salomon. The book, which is intended primarily for teachers' use, gives a definite, authoritative explanation of the scope and methods of slöjd teaching carried out in the well-known seminary at Nääs. Now that there is much loose talk about manual training and that special phase of it called in Sweden "*slöjd*," it is well that English teachers, who have not an opportunity of passing through a course under Herr Salomon's direction, should learn from his book what the objects of this particular branch of instruction really are, and what place is rightly assignable to slöjd in a complete scheme of training. Slöjd is of two kinds—educational and practical. The difference between the two is tersely shown in the statement that "in the latter, importance is attached to the *work*; in the former, on the contrary, to the *worker*." It is with educational slöjd only that the writers of this handbook are concerned, and in their successive chapters, which are abundantly illustrated by clearly drawn explanatory diagrams, they show and explain all that can be shown and explained in a handbook. But English teachers must remember that Herr Salomon's work is supplementary to a course of practical instruction, and is not intended to supersede it.

The annual volume of the *Journal of Education* (Rice) is, as usual, full of interesting matter. We by no means agree with all its views, but it is always able and usually suggestive. The insertion of columns of advertisements in the body of the paper proves a drawback to reading it when bound up in a volume.

#### RECENT VERSE.

*An Irish Wild-Flower, &c.* By Sarah M. Piatt. (Fisher Unwin.)  
*Michael Villiers, Idealist; and other Poems.* By E. H. Hickey. (Smith, Elder & Co.)  
*Parnassus by Rail.* By Marion Mills Miller, Lit. D. (Putnam's Sons.)  
*Love Lies Bleeding.* (Oxford, Blackwell.)  
*A Strange Tale of a Scarabæus.* By A. C. P. Haggard. (Kegan Paul & Co.)

MRS. SARAH M. B. PIATT gives her readers another book of interesting poetry, 'An Irish Wild-Flower, &c.' Here is the wild-flower complete (a barefoot child by — Castle):—

She felt, I think, but as a wild-flower can,  
 Through her bright fluttering rags, the dark, the cold.  
 Some farthest star, remembering what man  
 Forgets, had warmed her little head with gold.  
 Above her, hollow-eyed, long blind to tears,  
 Leaf-cloaked, a skeleton of stone arose.....  
 Oh, castle-shadow of a thousand years,  
 Where you have fallen—is this the thing that grows?

"&c." is sixteen slight poems, none very long, but most of them longer than 'An Irish Wild-Flower.' They have that charm which has before now been pointed out as the special characteristic of Mrs. Piatt's verse; and if it can be wished that now and then they have a tale to indicate or a meaning to imply their expression were somewhat less indistinct, it must be remembered that a certain suggestive indistinctness—

an indistinctness veiling while it reveals, in itself a true poetic quality—is an innate particularity of the author's style and a concomitant cause of much of its attractiveness. Another particularity is that she has so happy a knack of putting things that she keeps her readers sympathizing with her even while she is saying what in itself is outside their sympathy. For a strong instance of this take her

A WORD WITH A SKYLARK.  
If this be all, for which I've listened long,  
Oh, spirit of the dew!  
You did not sing to Shelley such a song  
As Shelley sung to you.  
Yet, with this ruined Old World for a nest,  
Worm-eaten through and through,—  
This waste of grave-dust stamped with crown and crest,—  
What better could you do?  
Ah me! but when the world and I were young,  
There was an apple-tree,  
There was a voice came in the dawn and sung  
The buds awake—ah me!  
Oh, Lark of Europe, downward fluttering near,  
Like some spent leaf at best,  
You'd never sing again if you could hear  
My Blue-Bird of the West!

There is much exception to be taken to what is here said. If it be never so much the fact that the song of the blue-bird is better than that of the skylark, it is none the less certain that, if Shelley had known and loved the song of the blue-bird in the apple-tree, he would have lost nothing of his love for the skylark's song "from Heaven or near it," and that Mrs. Piatt is unfortunate in not being able to feel that joy of the voice in the sky which penetrates most listeners. But then, how song-like is her deprecation of the songster whose spell she fails to understand! Her second stanza, indeed, is not felicitous in conception; the artificial fancy about the birds' songs being affected by the political and social conditions of Old and New World is still more false to poetry than it is to natural history, and in its incongruous energy it goes tryingly near bathos: yet even that unreal and inartistic passage cannot spoil the pleasant flow of the poem. It does but read like an interpolation, and is forgotten in the true beauty of the next stanza. And the result of the whole piece is that Mrs. Piatt's unjustifiable attack on the skylark, which ought to set everybody in arms against her, is an enjoyable bit of verse which no one will read only once. For all that, the intrusive political stanza carries a text for a critic's moral. Because by its exceptional irrelevance it reads like an interpolation, and practically is skipped by the reader's mind, it does not spoil the poem: but what if it had not been altogether irrelevant? If Mrs. Piatt does not check a tendency evident in much of the contents of her new book to let politics, instead of poetry, get hold of her verse—well, she will be writing politics instead of poetry.

Miss Hickey has before now published poems enjoyable for their sweetness and grace and their tender pensiveness. In her 'Michael Villiers, Idealist,' she has cast aside these merits and has given herself for task the setting forth, and, so far as may be, the solving, of social and political problems. For mechanism she uses the biography of Michael Villiers—who is not merely an idealist, for he dedicates his life-work and his fortune to putting his theories into practical execution. As he says to the bride who will go hand in hand with him in his self-sacrifices and apostleship:—

We go on  
To live out what we think to be the truth.  
We who believe in man, ay, and in men;  
We who would work as if upon our work  
Hung the supremest issue; and would wait  
As if our patience had the key of heaven.

To prepare himself for the work he meant to perform Michael Villiers

Studied much upon the ways of men,  
And watched what men and women thought and did;  
and he used to discuss social questions with friends, especially with Grey, who argued good-humouredly but unyieldingly against his doctrines, and to whom in his replies he showed his whole heart and mind, urging his beliefs.

Thus Miss Hickey has opportunity for expressing in various moods, and with some of the warmth of the dramatic method, her convictions and her reasonings about "the new ideal." The new ideal is

Brotherhood, freedom, and equality,—  
Equality of chance.

It is

All men secure of bread to fill their mouths,  
All men secure of bread to feed their souls;  
Of time and scope for every power they have  
To bear upon the thing they do the best.

It is the ideal one of our foremost poets is holding before his political disciples. But he does it in prose, and surely that is best. This ideal—scarcely so very new—is poetry in itself; and therefore none can say it is unfit for poetic treatment. But the attempt to bring it into the region of practical affairs, to explain and prove that it offers a requisite and a feasible polity, is inconsistent with the nature of poetic expression; such discussion needs for its eloquence the directness and the freedom of prose. So far as diction and argument go, Miss Hickey has prose enough and to spare in her 'Michael Villiers, Idealist'; but it is prose that has to wear the disguise of verse and to be systematically pulled out to fit the ten-syllable lines. Indeed, though praise may justly be given to its ability and fervour, as well as to the loftiness of the motives which have inspired it, 'Michael Villiers, Idealist,' as a whole is no poem, but a declamation in elongated prose. If Miss Hickey wants to have her doctrines sink into hearts and strike root, let her try more of such lyrics as 'A Dream of Spinning and Weaving' in this same volume: let her picture a golden age of "the new ideal" with light poetic touch as in this:—

I would have the thread spun strong and smooth  
By the hands of age or the hands of youth;  
Which, it would matter not a whit,  
So the women were glad a-spinning it;  
So hand and foot the pleasure knew  
Of work that is happiness to do;  
That shuts not away from home and hearth,  
And the sweetest joys of all the earth.  
The girls should sing and the grandams croon  
Dear words which go to familiar tune:  
And the web should be woven by hands that know  
To fling the shuttle to and fro,  
Nor fear to pause with a smile, and say,  
"God give you, neighbour of mine, good-day";  
Nor fear to leave the loom alone  
Before the golden day had gone.

The poetry of Dr. Marion Mills Miller, as published in his 'Parnassus by Rail,' has the great defect that it is not interesting. His 'Fraternity,' a long piece in eight-line stanzas read to the "Sigma Chi" Fraternity at "its sixteenth biennial convention," is tedious moralizing, and 'Songs of the Creatures of Instinct' and 'Song of the Fairies' are still more tedious frisking. Prefixed to a college prize poem, 'The Battle of Cannæ,' an imitation of the 'Lays of Ancient Rome,' he has this verse:—

MACAULAY.

O ye who strive with Metre's line and stick  
To bridge by Verse Oblivion's dark chasm,  
See how by simple bounding Rhetoric  
He cleared it with a boy's enthusiasm.

The "bounding rhetoric" is lacking in the emulative strains of 'The Battle of Cannæ,' but the phrase about striving "with Metre's line and stick" aptly describes the artisan-like kind of Dr. Miller's verse-making. He is conscious of ability, and he has had a literate education, and so he turns his ability to this craft. But his craftsmanship is not of any excellence; and it cannot be said that he would do wisely to devote time and study to trying to give it what it lacks. His ability can find fitter, and therefore worthier, use.

The poems which are the contents of 'Love Lies Bleeding' are especially pretty and musical. The thought in them is somewhat vague and slight; this, which is rather a charm than a defect in these graceful little lyrics taken separately, causes a sense of disappointment in the volume as a whole. The reader comes to

desire something beyond what is given, a wider range of themes, more variety of treatment, deeper emotion. Perhaps the anonymous author of 'Love Lies Bleeding' will in some future volume be found to have attained this larger development of poetic gift.

Capt. A. C. P. Haggard in 'A Strange Tale of a Scarabeus' uses a striking idea—that of transporting two nineteenth century persons back into past ages, into the very life of the Egypt of Cheops, not by any vain device of a dream, but in all the reality of flesh-and-blood existence. One of these persons by chance found in the tomb of Cheops a scarab, the seal given to Cheops at his birth by the Sun-god Ra and made the marriage pledge of Cheops to his bride, Queen Nepthe; they—a pair of lovers—use it as a troth-plight, and herein is the fulfilment of the conditions of Ra's mysterious decree declared by his priestess with the giving of the scarab, and Cheops and all his Egypt live again. There is no make-believe about the life: the second epoch of Cheops is as real, as humanly matter of fact, as the former; it is in everything, including time, a resurrection. In this remote antiquity the nineteenth century pair take their places in as simply material a fashion as if they had stepped into the next parish. Their reception at the court of Cheops and their prompt marriage by the rites of the time and country to which they are transferred make up half the tale, and there is continuance—unfortunately with more and more admixture of unintended comicality by details and expositions—of the phantasy of the beings of the present endowed with contemporary life in the past. Afterwards this mysterious circumstance is quite out of sight, and the romance in which these persons play prominent parts is just as if they had been by natural date inhabitants of the Egypt of Cheops—as Capt. Haggard conceives of that Egypt. When the merely human romance has been brought to a crisis there is a sudden superhuman conclusion by means of the scarab; Nepthe's crushing it in malignant desperation fulfils the second part of its spell, and all that it has resuscitated crumbles into dust and is wafted away by a wind. The modern personages find themselves back in their modern world—nothing changed in it or them—alone together beneath the Pyramids in the moonlight stillness, just as they had been when Cheops and his world arose from the tomb at their approach. But they are not left to think their visit to the past a dream, for there lies near them on the sands "a small coffin mummy case," and when they read its hieroglyphics they know that within it lies their son Amenor, born to them when they were man and wife in the reign of Cheops. It is well that, even so tardily and in this perplexing fashion, the tale does revert, before it ceases, to its fundamental mystery of present carried into past. In this idea there is an originality and a fascination which give the book a singular interest; but for it the tale would only be a crude romance with a necromantic catastrophe to end it. Unfortunately no critic recognizing the value of the idea can rightly omit to say that Capt. Haggard has been unable to use it so impressively as it deserved. Perhaps no one could have worked it with complete effectiveness into an explicit story—it is of the kind that belongs to shadowy vagueness and suggestion—but surely there can be few writers who, if capable of originating the idea, could be also capable, as Capt. Haggard has been, of making it often show preposterous and of disfiguring it with obtrusive circumstantiality. The verse in which Capt. Haggard tells his "strange tale" is deplorable; it is frequently doggerel, and at its best false metre and faulty pronunciations are habitual in it and the diction is feeble and trivial. A few small lyrics at the end of the volume exhibit much better powers of expression and versification.



## LOCAL HISTORY.

*Old Dundee: Ecclesiastical, Burghal, and Social.* By Alexander Maxwell. (Edinburgh, Douglas.)—This is a kind of belated predecessor to the author's 'History of Old Dundee,' for it deals with the forty years prior, as that with the century subsequent, to the Reformation. In reviewing that book seven years ago we expressed a regret that Mr. Maxwell had not rather devoted himself to a formal and exhaustive history of Dundee; but whilst hoping he may still some day take up the task we will not repeat the regret, for, based as it is throughout on contemporary and unpublished documents, 'Old Dundee' sheds a more vivid light on much that was obscure in pre-Reformation Scotland generally than could have been shed by a work of wider scope. Only the other day Dr. Edgar asserted that "for hundreds of years before the Reformation there had been no such thing in the Catholic Church as public penance"; but here we find several instances of date 1520-3, as when "Reche Crag having threatened the officers with a dirk, he confessit the fault," and is ordered to come on Sunday "barefute and bareleg in time of the hie mess, and the knife drawn in his hand be the point," and "on his knees ask the Provost forgiveness, and give him the knife to be put up whair he pleases." Such penance, it is true, was imposed by the civil authorities; still, it helps to explain the stern post-Reformation discipline. In 1535 Mr. John Wedderburn, Vicar of Dundee, shot in an archery match at St. Andrews between six Scotchmen and six Englishmen (the Scottish team won); in 1521 the bailies "statute and ordainit the sergeants to keep the puir folk on haly days out of the Kirk." Wishart the Martyr "had commonly by his bedside a tubbe of water in the which he used to bathe himself." In 1559, the Reformation accomplished, the canny town council put twelve copes up to auction, and got the purchaser to "cause them be alterit for the Kirk-Session, and never to serve in Papistrie herefter." Three years before that date Janet Gilchrist, for 40l. and "ane stand of clothing," consented to a divorce by holy Kirk betwixt her and her husband, then dwelling in Elsinore, giving him "licence to use his body and dispone thereupon as himself pleases, to marry or to live chaste as he sall think expedient." The judgments recorded here might often have been pronounced by Sancho Panza, as when George Black, boatman, was "decernit to be doukit our the head at the full sea" for pitching a man into the water; or when of two thieves, "ameriate for common pickery of ane puir woman within silence of the nicht," the less guilty was ordained "to scourge his fellow round about within the bounds of this burgh, as use is, and gif he fails in the extreme punishing of him, then the hangman sall scourge them baith in his maist extreme manner he can." A tailor, likewise accused of theft, was hardly dealt with, for he was "adjudgit to be punishit with twelve straits with ane double belt, because there could be nae sufficient proof gotten, but vehement suspicion, and syne to be banishit the burgh for year and day"; but one need not waste pity on John Anderson, who, for "unlaw in drawing of ane whinger and invading of Archibald Kyd," was sentenced to "pass to the place whair he offendit Archibald, and desire of him, upon his knees, forgiveness. And his whinger to be taken frae him and put in the cuck-stule." The fable that the Carse ploughmen declined in old days to eat salmon oftener than twice a week should be for ever dispelled by the fact that about 1520 salmon sold in quantity at from 7½d. to 9d. the pound; in 1555 a hawk might be worth the price of two cows. In 1536 a mason worked during summer from 5 A.M. to 7 P.M., with two and a half hours, in three intervals, for meals; shortly after the Reformation the matin and evensong

bells, which had proclaimed the hours of work and repose, were superseded by a piper, who, dressed in the town's livery and colours, was to pass and play through the burgh every day, "in the morning at four hours, and every night at acht hours." From these few desultory jottings, taken almost at random in the order that they occur in, some idea may be formed of a work of exceptional value and interest, in which we note only two errors—the "altar of St. Crucis" and "the psalm De Profundus."

*Vinciagliata and Maiano.* By Leader Scott. (Florence, Barbèra; London, Fisher Unwin.)—We may be permitted to doubt whether the model of a mediæval Tuscan stronghold erected by Mr. Temple-Leader on the ruins of the old castle of Vinciagliata is, notwithstanding the elaboration and solidity of its detail, altogether free from certain pinchbeck characteristics which too often disfigure such attempts at historical illustration. However, it has already drawn laudatory descriptions from the pens of Lord Lamington and Baron de Reumont; Italian antiquaries, including Signor Baroni and Signor Carocci, have dedicated to it learned treatises; and now Mrs. Leader Scott discourses on its fabric and catalogues its contents with the amplitude of detail requisite to satisfy the proprietor and creator, whilst with considerable skill she manages to interest the general reader in the result of her labours. Some of the documents summarized by Mrs. Leader Scott have already been given in their original form by Signor Baroni. From these it appears that the Visdomini, whose ownership of Vinciagliata is the earliest on record, enjoyed some peculiar ecclesiastical rights of which the existence is more easy to prove than the origin is to explain. Thus as early as the ninth century they possessed what our author terms the lay bishopric of Florence, accepted tribute from its spiritual incumbent, and administered the revenues whenever the see became vacant, being therefore described by Dante as

coloro,  
Che sempre che la vostra Chiesa vaca  
Si fanno grassi stando a consistoro.

Parchments of the eleventh century preserved in the Badia at Florence show various members of the same family bartering as lay ecclesiastics the tithes of the church of San Martino, and on one occasion receiving as the price for a quota of these rights a gold ring and a horse. In 1335 the Usimbardi sell for 4,060 gold florins the Castle of Vinciagliata and its dependencies. A little later it is held for a brief period by the Bardi family, but in 1345 they are forced to part with the property in consequence of the losses they sustain by loans made to our King Edward III. and by the crash of the Florentine banks. As a consolation their illustrious debtor accords them the right to quarter the royal arms of England. It is said that the charter granting this permission is still preserved in the archives of the Peruzzi family. Notwithstanding the frescoes and inscriptions by which the present owner has caused to be commemorated the alleged sack and destruction of the castle by Sir John Hawkwood, Mrs. Scott frankly admits that the episode rests solely on conjecture. But surely she errs when stating that in 1363 Hawkwood "had for some years been fighting for the Pisans," for he had only entered their service that very summer. Moreover, his march on Florence was in direct fulfilment of his engagement with his new masters, and not merely "by way of keeping his White Company employed." During the tenure of Vinciagliata for some five hundred years by the Alessandri, a branch of the Albizi, no incident seems to us so curious as the rapid decay of the family and of the property in the eighteenth century. In 1751 the curé records in the parish register that "no one inhabits the ruined palace of the Signori Alessandri, but the holy water is still sprinkled in the empty rooms as Easter comes round." A hundred years later Mr. Leader

bought the heaps of stones and one or two dilapidated walls that alone remained. Mrs. Scott, however, does not confine herself to the chronicles of the ancient and to the architecture of the modern Vinciagliata. Scattered throughout the sumptuous volume are many items of miscellaneous interest, such as criticisms on Etruscan remains; records of the Italianized descendants of Robert Dudley, the so-called Duke of Northumberland; notes of the "laccio," a forked weapon used by Hawkins's mercenaries for the capture of prisoners; and descriptions of various instruments of punishment, including the stone wheel placed in the market of mediæval Florence for the correction of debtors and fraudulent bankrupts. From disquisitions on the latest improvements in oil pressing and wine making, from descriptions of the mezzaria system as now practised in Tuscany, with the curious traces it still retains of feudal tribute and service, Mrs. Leader Scott reverts to the register of the nuns who formerly dwelt in the monastery at Maiano which now forms Mr. Leader's fattoria, to the profits they made by their silkworms, and to the inventory of the *corredo* of their waxen Madonna. We note that the 224 and 240 lire paid by these ladies to the master carver and master painter for the decoration of their altar contrast favourably with the 500 sols tournois a year which, at about the same time, Catherine de' Medici considered an adequate salary for J. Bullant as architect of her palace the Tuileries.

*Vestiges of Old Southampton.* Twelve Etchings by F. McFadden, with Descriptions by T. W. Shore. (Southampton, H. M. Gilbert.)—This collection of picturesque etchings is very welcome from an historical point of view, although many of the examples have been drawn with a needlessly heavy hand. Architects will desire firmer and more precise delineations, but even they may accept Mr. McFadden's good offices, especially as he has employed himself in recording the remains of those most curious fragments, the Arcade and its additional fortifications. As the royal palace was ordered to be repaired in 1207, and in 1222 money was provided by royal command, their record supports the evidences of their style. There seems to be some likelihood that, as a rampart was constructed behind and above them, their service was analogous to the very uncommon rampart which connects the body of Beaumaris Castle with the sea. Artistically speaking, in tone and colour 'Winkle Street' is among the best of these etchings, but, except the Norman window of God's House Gate, here shown on our left of it, part of a building which has been much restored and tampered with, there is no great architectural interest in the place; historically speaking, few subjects in Southampton are, nevertheless, more valuable than this one, although it may not be true that the beach outside the gate is the scene of that often painted "morality," 'Canute reproving his Courtiers.' God's House, which belongs to Queen's College, Oxford, is now an almshouse for eight poor persons. Here the remains of Richard, Earl of Cambridge, who was beheaded at Southampton in 1415, were interred. About thirty years ago, when the church was restored, the bones of a rather tall man, with the skull lying separate, were found under the floor of the chancel of the church adjoining, and reinterred in the same place. Thirty years after Earl Richard's death, Margaret of Anjou landed at Southampton and lodged in the hospital. Partial use of the church was in 1567 granted to Walloon Protestant refugees, who in 1712 conformed to the Anglican ritual, and to this day conduct their services in the French language. There are, we believe, more traces of French and Norman-French customs and people in Southampton than in any other coast town in England. Among the fragments of a later date, few in Southampton can compare with the three pointed arches remaining of the Biddles Gate, or the Castle Gate, standing

at one end of Simnel Street, which is part, it is likely, of the bakers' quarter of the city. Later still is Tudor House, so called, or "the King's House," a sixteenth century building, with some interesting interior remains—much altered externally, so far as the basement is concerned. Here Henry VIII. is said to have lodged several times between 1512 and 1518. There is nothing except popular tradition to support the tale; but the first floor, roofs, and gables are quite old enough to have seen the "bluff" monarch stride past, and they are excellent instances of their time. The etching, which, like a few of the other etchings, looks as if it owed something to a photograph, is among the best of the collection. The design and proportions of the gables and windows, as well as the sort of *facia* below the latter, are noteworthy and characteristic. The Arundel Tower—part of the old fortifications of Southampton, and one of twenty-nine towers which added to their strength—cost the burghesses much money to repair when it and the adjacent walls were greatly damaged by the sea. Rising above the chimneys of the houses, it is conspicuously picturesque. Only the cylinder of stone remains at this time. The care and skill of Mr. McFadden are manifest in the foreshortening and finish of the view of St. Michael's Church—remarkably so in the house-fronts, their windows and doors on our right. Mr. G. D. Leslie, R.A., who has written a sympathetic and justly laudatory preface to this book, warmly commends the etcher for his care, ability, and taste. He rightly praises the effort to preserve records of old buildings which ruthless, if not ignorant innovators are "improving" out of existence, and he regrets that more has not been done in this way for London itself. Yet the number of drawings made of old buildings in London within our memory is prodigious.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

UNDER the title of *Gods and Heroes; or, the Kingdom of Jupiter* (Blackwood & Sons), Mr. Francillon has written an attractive book of classical mythology for the rising generation, mingling the Greek and Latin myths with as little heed of their comparative or contrasted qualities as was bestowed on them by Ovid himself. Though his purpose in accomplishing this feat is confessedly educational, he has treated the subject with a novelist's fancy and freedom, so that his book is in the nature of a connected story rather than a mythological primer for the fourth form schoolboy. From this point of view the work seems to have been very well done, and it will unquestionably serve the turn of boys and girls who begin their classical education at home. There are eight appropriate pictures, some of which may be looked upon as trivially humorous. In fact, the book is humorous throughout; but that will not be considered a fault in the eyes of many parents.

WORDSWORTH'S *The White Doe of Rylstone, with the Song at the Feast of Brougham Castle and The Force of Prayer*, is the latest addition to the "Clarendon Press Series of English Classics." The triad of associated poems is edited by Prof. Knight, of St. Andrews, and the notes, various readings, and illustrations are selected from his monumental edition of Wordsworth's 'Poetical Works.' The only addition seems to be an extract from an interesting letter from Coleridge to Wordsworth on the defects of the 'White Doe' as first written in 1807-8. This letter was more fully printed in Prof. Knight's 'Life of Wordsworth.' Lamb, too, had serious fault to find with the structure of the poem, and what with these discouragements and others from the publishers, the 'White Doe' did not appear until 1815. Even then it was not deemed a success, and Wordsworth again altered it materially in 1836.

THE Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres publish a large and beautifully illustrated edition of their father's letters about the siege of Antwerp and various Algerian campaigns. It will be remembered that some of the letters of the Duc d'Orléans about his African campaigns have been already published on a previous occasion. The present volume, brought out by M. Calmann Lévy, of Paris, under the title of *Récits de Campagne*, is much more interesting than was the former one, and the cuts are taken from most admirable drawings by distinguished artists. The Duke wrote well, and if the drawings given as his are genuine, and have not been much touched, he was also an excellent draughtsman. He seems to have been the ablest and one of the pleasantest of his family, and it is possible that had he lived he would have seen what his father never saw, namely, how to govern France under a Revolutionary monarchy, and would have given up the idle attempt to rely upon a section of the middle class, and thrown himself, through manhood suffrage, upon the entire people.

M. J. ROTHSCHILD, of Paris, publishes *Les Ministres dans les Principaux Pays d'Europe et d'Amérique*, by M. L. Dupriez (Vol. I.), which is to be completed in two volumes. The present volume deals with ministers and cabinets under constitutional monarchy, and especially with the constitutional system of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Italy, Prussia, and Germany. There is an introduction by Comte de Franqueville, who is as high an authority upon the subject as exists, and perhaps, on the whole, a better authority on the English constitution than any living Englishman—certainly as good as any. We note an error at p. 193 of "Board of Trade" for Local Government Board. It is, perhaps, not altogether easy to justify the classification of Prussia among constitutional monarchies. It is a monarchy and it has a constitution, but that is hardly enough. Russia is a monarchy, and Russia may be said to have a constitution, although, of course, one which can be modified at the Emperor's will; but in practice that of Prussia can be modified in the same way. Still, on the whole, the theory in Prussia approximates more to that of the constitutional monarchies proper than to that of the autocracies. There is really more to be learnt, however, as regards constitutional doctrine, from our colonies, and especially from Canada, than there is from all the continental states put together.

*Murray's Handbook for India and Ceylon, 1891*, is based on the guides to India "revised and condensed into one handy volume," and contains a vast amount of information. Maps of the country and plans of towns and buildings are liberally supplied. In spelling Indian words, the publisher says, no system has been followed. The statement will not be controverted, for it would be hard to find a stranger blend of existing systems. Revision by experts would improve the book, into which several little errors have crept, though they are not such as to spoil it for tourists. For their purposes this guide will be most useful; and even those who know the country well will find in it a record of progress as well as an occasion for indulging in the pleasures of memory.

THE Librairie Militaire de L. Baudoin at Paris publishes *Souvenirs de la Campagne du Tonkin*, an excellent volume by Capt. Carteron. Those soldiers and others who wish for a complete account of the French operations in Tonquin, just before and during the French war with China, will find it here. The part of the book which will most interest the general English reader is that which has to do with the organization and services of the French Foreign Legion. Among Capt. Carteron's heroes is one at least who hailed from the United Kingdom—Patrick Cotter, an officer in the Foreign Legion, killed gloriously at the head of his men after brilliant

service for France. On the other hand, one of his deepest scoundrels is an English soldier in the Legion, who put himself at the head of a band of Dutch, German, and Belgian deserters from that force, lived on the country, and had the intention of joining the Chinese. All the members of the party who were not killed by the inhabitants were afterwards shot by the French, and died with great courage, as is here described. One can understand finding among the sergeants of the Legion men who have held high rank in the Austro-Hungarian army; but it is less easy to explain the presence among the privates of 11 per cent. of real "Germans," in addition to the nearly 50 per cent. of nominal Germans from Alsace.

THE eighth volume of the reissue of *Chambers's Encyclopædia* (W. & R. Chambers) confirms our impression of the great superiority of the new edition. It contains excellent memoirs of Pepys by Mr. Wheatley, Pitt by Mr. Lecky, Plutarch by Dr. Holden, Prior and Præd by Mr. Dobson, Pope by Mr. Traill, and Rabelais by Mr. Besant. Prof. Cheyne contributes a learned article on the Psalms; Mr. Law writes with knowledge about Cardinal Pole; "Prayer Book," by the Bishop of Edinburgh, is an excellent contribution; and Mr. Blackmore's disquisition on roses is most pleasant. "Railways," by Mr. M'Dermott, is an interesting essay, although it may be doubted if the picture of French railways is correct. Passenger trains are much fewer than in Great Britain, but they are much more punctual. The illustrations have decidedly improved.

IMMEDIATELY on the publication of 'Debrett' has followed the publication of its handsome rival, *The Peerage and Baronetage of the British Empire*, by Edmund Lodge (Hurst & Blackett), the clear type of which and its good arrangement make it easy of reference; and *Dod's Peerage, Baronetage, and Knighthood* (Whittaker & Co.), another volume of established reputation, the cover of which we are sorry to see disfigured by an advertisement.—Other volumes which the close of the year brings us are *McCorquodale's Railway Diary* (McCorquodale), and *The Chiswick Press Calendar* (Whittingham & Co.), a useful affair.

MR. GRISWOLD, of Cambridge, Mass., has given the world another specimen of patient drudgery in his *Descriptive Lists of American, International, Romantic, and British Novels*. Mr. Griswold apparently confines himself to novels written in English or translated into English, and even then we fail to understand his selection. Under "Romantic Novels" he includes a great deal of trash, and apparently only mentions two of Dumas's, repeating, too, the foolish assertion that Maquet wrote 'The Three Musketeers.' But one of all Balzac's novels seems to be noticed!

WE have several new editions on our table, one of them a revised version of Madame Villari's excellent translation of her husband's able work *The Life and Times of Niccolò Machiavelli* (Fisher Unwin). The original translation was a good deal shortened to meet the demands of the London publisher. Two entire chapters fell victims to his requirements, and the last two volumes were shorn of their documents. These are restored, and additions have been made to the book under the superintendence of the distinguished author. The interest in Machiavelli, never wholly extinct in this country, has shown signs of revival, or we should say of increase, of late years, and therefore a public exists which can appreciate these handsome volumes, that, with their illustrations, form a Christmas present of a high class. The typography is careful, but it was a pity to print Politian's elegiacs on p. 157 of the first volume as if they were hexameters.—*The Pirate and Peveril of the Peak* are the latest instalments of Messrs. Black's wonderfully cheap reprint of Scott's novels.—The "Minerva



Library" has been enriched by the addition of Sir Joseph Hooker's delightful *Himalayan Journals*, revised by their accomplished author. Messrs. Ward & Lock are doing a real service by issuing such works in a cheap form. The same publishers have sent us a new edition, copiously illustrated, of *A Study in Scarlet*, by Mr. Conan Doyle.—In the cheap issue of the "Golden Treasury Series" *The Life and Death of Socrates* has appeared.

AMONG the catalogues on our table are those of Mr. Bumpus (good), Mr. Edwards (good), Messrs. Ellis & Elvey (valuable), Mr. Evans (fair), Mr. Haigh Hartley, Mr. Irvine (garden- ing books), Mr. Jackson (good), Messrs. Jarvis & Son (good), Messrs. J. & J. Leighton (interesting), Mr. May (good), Mr. Menken (good), Messrs. Myers & Co. (good), Mr. Nutt (good), Mr. Reya (history), Mr. Spencer (good), Messrs. Suckling & Galloway (fairly good),—also those of Messrs. C. & F. Pickering of Bath, Mr. Hitchman of Birmingham (rather interesting), Messrs. George's Sons (two catalogues, one of Shakespeare and Dean Plumptre's books) and Mr. Jefferies of Bristol (fairly good), Mr. Goulden of Canterbury, Mr. Murray of Derby (fairly good), Mr. Cameron (good) and Mr. Clay (good) of Edinburgh, Messrs. Kerr & Richardson of Glasgow (fairly good), Messrs. Young & Sons of Liverpool (good), Mr. Thorne of Newcastle, and Mr. Thorpe of Reading.

WE have on our table *The Students' Marx*, by E. Aveling (Sonnenschein),—*Calendar of the University College of North Wales, 1891-2* (Manchester, Cornish),—*Intermediate Examinations, 1891: The Examination Papers issued at the Thirtieth Examinations held in June, 1891* (Dublin, Browne & Nolan),—*Papers of the American Historical Association, Vol. V. Parts I.-III.* (Putnam),—*Young Ladies of To-day*, by C. F. Rideal (Dean),—"*Highest References*," by F. Warden (Railway Automatic Library),—*Unhappy Loves of Men of Genius*, by T. Hitchcock (Osgood & Co.),—*Jaleberd's Bumps*, by J. Greenwood (Griffith & Farran),—*Lester, the Loyalist*, by D. Sladen (Griffith & Farran),—*With my Friends*, by B. Matthews (Longmans),—*Intentions*, by Oscar Wilde (Osgood),—*Consider the Lilies how they Grow: Poems*, by F. L. Hosmer (Glasgow, Bryce),—*The Precious Things of Home*, by the Rev. W. Senior ('Home Words' Office),—*Martin Luther, German Student Life, Poetry*, from the MS. of the late W. B. Robertson, D.D. (Glasgow, MacLehose),—"*Speaking Years*," a *Memory of the Rev. W. Carnis*, by the Rev. C. Bullock ('Home Words' Office),—*At Odd Minutes*, collected by G. M. A. Hornby (Stock),—*The Divine Library of the Old Testament*, by A. F. Kirkpatrick (Macmillan),—*A Manual of Doctrine and Practical Notes for Church Teachers*, by the Rev. J. S. Bouchier (Griffith & Farran),—*Lehrbuch der Geographie für die Volksschule*, by A. Stauber, Part I. (Williams & Norgate),—*Ausgewählte Englische Dichtungen in Deutscher Uebersetzung*, by O. Kuntze (Stettin, Nagel),—and *La Question d'Alsace dans une Ame d'Alsacien*, by E. Lavis (Paris, Colin). Among New Editions we have *The Iliad and Odyssey of Homer*, translated by Alexander Pope, edited by the Rev. H. F. Cary (Routledge),—*Work, and How to Do It*, edited by Mrs. J. Mercier (Wells Gardner),—*Jesus, the Carpenter of Nazareth*, by a Layman (Kegan Paul),—and *Railway Abattoirs*, by D. Tallerman (Simpkin).

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS. ENGLISH.

##### Theology.

Kirby's (Most Rev. Dr.) *Meditations on the Principal Truths of Religion*, 12mo. 4/6.  
Müller's (F. Max) *Anthropological Religion*, the Gifford Lectures, 1891, cr. 8vo. 10/6 cl.  
Taylor's (W. M.) *Paul the Missionary*, cr. 8vo. 5/6 cl.

##### Poetry.

Haliburton's (H.) *Ochil Idylls, and other Poems*, 12mo. 3/6

##### Music.

Wagner (R.), a *Sketch of his Life and Works*, by F. Muncker, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.

##### History and Biography.

Gardiner's (S. R.) *Student's History of England from the Earliest Times to 1885*, 1 vol. complete, 12/ cl.  
Wiseman (Richard), *Surgeon and Sergeant-Surgeon to Charles II., a Biographical Study*, by Surgeon-General Sir T. Longmore, 8vo. 10/6 cl.

##### Geography and Travel.

Coltman's (R.) *The Chinese, their Present and Future*, 10/ Stuart (H. V.) *of Dromans's Adventures amidst the Equatorial Forests and Rivers of South America*, roy. 8vo. 2/1

##### Science.

Dutton's (T.) *Indigestion Clearly Explained, Treated, and Dieted*, cr. 8vo. 2/ cl.  
Fream's (W.) *Elements of Agriculture, a Text-Book*, 2/6 cl.

##### General Literature.

Davies's (Rev. D.) *Talks with Men, Women, and Children*, 3rd Series, cr. 8vo. 6/6 cl.  
Goldsmith's *Choice Works*, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Heathcote (J. M.) and Tebbutt's (C. G.) *Skating*, 8vo. 10/6 cl. (Badminton Library.)  
Hervey's (M. H.) *The Trade Policy of Imperial Federation*, cr. 8vo. 2/6 cl.  
Linton's (W. J.) *The Flower and the Star, and other Stories for Children*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Nissen's (H.) *A B C of the Swedish System of Educational Gymnastics*, cr. 8vo. 4/ cl.  
Peacock's (Capt. J. M.) *A Military Crime, From Reveille to Lights Out, A Soldier and a Maid*, cr. 8vo. 3/6 cl.  
Robert's (M.) *King Billy of Ballarat, and other Stories*, 5/ cl.  
What Was It? by Greta Armer, 12mo. 5/ cl.

##### FOREIGN.

##### Theology.

Beyschlag (W.) : *Neutestamentliche Theologie*, Vol. 1, 8m.  
Weill (R.) : *Der Commentar d. Maimonides zum Tractat Berachoth, Arabischer Text u. Hebr. Uebersetzung*, 2m.

##### Fine Art.

Ancien Armorial Équestre en Fac-similé, 200fr.  
Frauberger (H.) : *Die Akropolis v. Baalbek*, 27m.  
Ongania : *Calli e Canali a Venise*, 75fr.

##### Poetry and the Drama.

Dahn (F.) : *Rolandin, Erzählung in Versen*, 3m.

##### History and Biography.

Acta Pontificum Helvetica, hrsg. v. J. Bernoulli, Vol. 1, 1198-1268, 28m.  
Fiers (Marquis de) : *Le Roi Louis Philippe*, 10fr.  
Pastor (L.) : *Geschichte der Päpste seit dem Ausgang des Mittelalters*, Vol. 1, 10m.  
Saint-Amand (L. de) : *La Cour de Charles X.*, 40fr.  
Schubring (J.) : *Briefwechsel zwischen F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy u. J. Schubring*, 4m. 40.  
Schultz (A.) : *Deutsches Leben im XIV. u. XV. Jahrh.*, Part 1, 15m.

##### Geography and Travel.

Jaime (G.) : *De Koulikou à Tombouctou*, 12fr.  
Silvestre (A.) : *La Russie*, 25fr.

##### Philology.

Ahrens (H. L.) : *Kleine Schriften*, Vol. 1, 16m.  
Genthe (A.) : *Deutsches Slang*, 1m. 20.  
Robert v. Blois : *Sämmtliche Werke*, hrsg. v. J. Ulrich, Vol. 2, 8m.

##### Science.

Cantor (M.) : *Vorlesungen üb. die Geschichte der Mathematik*, Vol. 2, Part 1, 14m.  
Festschrift Rudolf Virchow gewidmet zur seinem 70 Geburtstag, 3 vols. 120m.  
Gérard (F. J.) : *Nos Chevaux*, 5fr.  
Lucas (F.) : *Traité Pratique d'Électricité*, 15fr.

##### General Literature.

Paris (G.) : *Le Juif Errant en Italie*, 1fr. 25.  
Weigand (W.) : *Essays*, 4m. 50.

#### NEW YEAR'S MORNING AT VENICE, 1867.

MAN's knowledge—save before his fellow man—  
Is ignorance—his widest wisdom folly.

In Nature's eyes still gazing, dazzled wholly  
By sights his own can make, how should he scan  
Pictures like those in Nature's iris-span ?—

Hers show the cypress, his the melancholy ;  
His shine with Christmas, hers with simple holly  
That knew no mirth till Yule-tide feasts began ;

And yet, dear Venice, unto me it seems  
That yonder sun, breaking through mists of morn,  
Gilding each dome that History's hand hath worn,  
Painting thy palaces with rosy gleams,  
Hanging thy Grand Canal with rainbow-steams,  
Smiles conscious down on Freedom's year new-born.

THEODORE WATTS.

#### SOME LECTURES DELIVERED BY COLERIDGE IN THE WINTER OF 1818-19.

##### II.

THE *Champion* for January 3rd, 1819, contained the following :—

COLERIDGE'S PHILOSOPHICAL LECTURES.—We lament exceedingly that we were prevented from hearing the Lecture of Monday last, from which we had promised ourselves very high entertainment—the more especially as we shall not be able to hear any more of that series. A correspondent has obliged us with the following abstract.

As far as related to the subject of his lecture, he considered the ancient world as composed of two distinct people—the Greeks and the Hebrews.

The Hebrews were without heroism or genius. All with them was theocratical or historical ; whilst with the Greeks every thing was genius and heroism—and nothing historical.—Homer might be their first writer.\* As their language was every where nearly similar ; and as they had no titles of nobility, they were not marked as ever having been a conquered people ; and they probably came in successive colonies from the same country, and were of the same origin. The Pelasgians, or ancient inhabitants, believed in Gods ; but they had no Gods by name, and did not worship any. Bacchus had first a name at Dodona. It had been disputed whether such a person as Homer had existed ?—and had, in after times, collected various poems together into one form ; such as we find them in the *Iliad*, &c.

Their contents (that is the theology in them) appear to have been the belief of the people—whilst the mysteries seem to have been designed as a secret opposition to this belief, which the initiated did not care openly to oppose. The Greeks, as an intellectual people, appeared to have stood by themselves ; and their countries became, by a kind of simultaneous impulse, at once Republics. Solon, Thales, &c. appear to have been the authors of the Greek Sayings—all of which appeared to have an air of good humour and cheerfulness about them ; whilst they were, at the same time, of a sneering character. Every saying appeared to have come from some of the seven Sages.

Thales was the first who asked for the origin of the Gods ; whilst he believed, without disputing it, the religion of his country. Pythagoras was their first philosopher. He might have been in Egypt, Persia & India. Sedon says he was at Babylon with Ezekiel. Pythagoras considered that there were 10 bodies—in the system—and to make up the tenth body he imagined one, called Antichthon, always moving on the other side of the Sun, exactly opposite to our world ; and, consequently, always invisible.—He undoubtedly knew the right system—and it is remarkable that Syme, in his travels in the Birman Empire, says that there is a people holding the same doctrine of 10 bodies, and with it the Pythagorean notion of one of these bodies being invisible from its situation being behind the Sun.

Herodotus says that the Egyptians had woolly heads ; and were in casts ; which seems to have been a mark of their having been a conquered people. Conquest encreases the power of the Priesthood. Pythagoras left his country on account of the jealousy of Polyocrates : went to Croton, and there first addressed himself to the highest class. In answer to the solicitations of those around him, Pythagoras would not talk of constitutions.

He said—that fools and uneducated men could not choose wise legislators—and therefore he endeavoured only to make men wise, &c. His disciples became numerous and excellent men. As such they were engaged in political employments, and thus politics became the distinction of the sect ; and the jealousy, &c. that arose every where around them, at last broke out in a persecution which annihilated them. The lecturer spoke of Pherecides and Anaximander ; and stated that Aristotle and Plato say that miracles were attributed to Pythagoras ; but as we, in our times, have heard the strongest attestations to animal magnetism, from most respectable persons (Germans whom the lecturer named) so might there be some things done by Pythagoras, through the influence of the imagination, which might appear even to intelligent men, as miraculous. Pythagoras began the system of philosophy followed by Plato ; and which, allowing for the schism made in it by Aristotle, remains to this day.

Thales had been in India and Egypt. Both were high in civilization, but had no mental cultivation. It was the many working for the pride or superstition of the few :—witness the Pyramids.

There was no mind displayed in Egyptian antiquities, and the hieroglyphicks had little but their antiquity to recommend them. Greece gained but little from studying the hieroglyphicks—and learned nothing (abroad) ; but in those ignorant times—Greece learned every thing from (within) itself.

The traditions and oracles of the Greeks, together with the history and prophecies of the Jews, prepared the world for the mission of the Messiah ; our belief in whom constitutes, or is the foundation of all true philosophy.

Again, in the number for January 10th, the following :—

COLERIDGE'S LECTURE on Thursday was, as we expected, a splendid and ingenious display of metaphysical criticism and poetic enthusiasm. Many of

\* This must be a mistake. Mr. C. maintains that Homer did not write. EDITOR [*Champion*].  
† Mr. C. contends that the *Iliad*, &c. had as many authors as there are books, &c.!!! EDITOR [*Champion*].

his ideas were as just as they were beautiful; but we wish that he had given some portion of the time consumed by the almost unintelligibly ambiguous apologies for belief in ghosts and goblins, to the elucidation of the yet obscure traits of the character of *Hamlet*. In many particulars Mr. C. at least accords with, if he has not availed himself of the opinions of Hazlitt, and of another Lecturer, whose disquisition on the character of *Hamlet*, during the last season, excited very popular attention. But still we are of opinion that he has not gone into the entire depths of this extraordinary delineation of physical, moral, and intellectual peculiarity of human character.

The audacity of Thelwall's remarks here is almost incredible—Coleridge plagiarizing from Hazlitt—and from Thelwall! It is enough to take one's breath away, for there can be no doubt that he is himself the "other Lecturer," he having delivered a course of lectures on Shakespeare, &c., in 1818, duly reported in the *Champion*. As to Hazlitt—Hazlitt knew better, and must have smiled—if Hazlitt ever smiled—at seeing himself thus dragged in as, with the assistance of Thelwall, helping Coleridge to opinions on *Hamlet*!

Whether it was that Thelwall was offended by these plagiarisms of Coleridge, or that all the space he could afford was occupied by reports of a fresh course he had himself begun about this time on English literature, I cannot say, but no more reports of Coleridge's lectures appeared in the *Champion*, and I do not know how many of the proposed lectures were actually delivered. From a complete prospectus of the two courses it appears that the one on philosophy was to extend to no fewer than fourteen lectures—which would carry them, "with the intermission of the Christmas week," to near the end of March. The part of the prospectus omitted by Allsop also announces: "An Historical and Chronological Guide to this Course will be printed, price Sixpence." This is, no doubt, the "assistant," the preface to which he prints at p. 118 of his second volume.

It is difficult to conceive his reason for omitting all mention of the "Alternate Course," portions of which, as I have found, were actually delivered. Coleridge proposes to take each play "scene by scene for the purpose of illustrating the conduct of the plot, and the peculiar force, beauty and propriety of the language, in the particular passages, as well as the intention of the great Philosopher Poet in the prominent characters of each play, and the unity of interest in the whole and in the apparent contrast of the component parts."

The course was first announced to begin on the 10th of December, but it was postponed for a week. The first lecture was to be on the "Tempest" "as a specimen of the Romantic or Poetical Drama of Shakespeare"; the second on "Richard II.," the third on "Hamlet," the fourth on "Macbeth," the fifth on "Othello," and the sixth and last on "Lear."

Some change, however, must have been made in the selection of the plays, for we learn from an allusion in Coleridge's letter to Britton (dated February 28th, 1819, and printed in the 'Remains,' ii. 2) that he delivered a lecture on 'Romeo and Juliet' at the Crown and Anchor, this play not being one of those announced in the prospectus.

We are not told by the editor of the 'Remains' whether Britton's proposals for a series of lectures at the Russell Institution bore fruit. It is not at all improbable that they did, although no report has yet been found. No such course is mentioned in Crabb Robinson's diary, but neither is there any mention there of the Crown and Anchor courses. The whole of Coleridge's letter to Britton is not given in the 'Remains,' although the part omitted—the conclusion—is quite as interesting as the portion printed. This concludes with the words, "Fuius Troes," and Coleridge goes on:—

"I regret that I cannot say the same of my intellectual life. At least were it in my power my works should be confined to the second volume of my 'Literary Life'; the Essays of the third volume of

the 'Friend' from page 67 to page 265, with about fifty or sixty pages from the two former volumes & some half-dozen of my Poems. If therefore I should be able to employ the time required for a course of six or eight lectures at the Russell Institution, that is compatibly with the other employments for the bread & beef of the day—God knows how laboriously, & yet scarcely earned!—I should greatly prefer your Committee making their own choice of the subjects from English, Italian, or German Literature; and even of the Fine Arts as far as the Philosophy of the same is alone concerned. I have learnt what I might easily have anticipated, that the 'Lear' of Shakespeare is not a good subject for a lecture in my style; with that exception any of the plays of Shakespeare—the 'Twelfth-Night,' 'The Tempest,' the 'Henry IV.,' the 'Richard II.,' with character of 'Richard III.,' 'R. & Juliet,' 'A. & Cleopatra,' 'Macbeth,' 'Hamlet,' 'Othello,' &c., &c., the 'Paradise Lost,' with the character of Milton (which I appear to remember was the favourite lecture of those given at the Surrey Institution), 'Spenser,' 'Dante,' old English Ballads & Metrical Romances; of the uses of poetry in the process of the mind's education, especially on the supernatural; the comparison of English poetry from Chaucer to Milton, with the period of Dryden (inclusive) to the Wartons; of all these and of any other congenious subjects. It would be much more agreeable to me (who am so utterly unfit to arrange any pecuniary matters, & have in consequence suffered so much in mind, to leave all else unnoticed, that I have vowed & promised never to attempt it again, but to leave it to some friend) if the Committee would state the sum they are disposed to offer & I would instantly decide.—Oh! how much more genial would my feelings be could I but address so respectable an audience with unhired eloquence. Even as it is & bleak as my vineyard (potato-ground would be a metaphor more germane to the occasion) lies on the north aspect of Parnassus—yet the accounts I have received from the best authority of the character of the audience at the Russell Institution have alone induced me to return a hesitating answer to the enquiry, which at all events I must have acknowledged as a high compliment to, dear Sir, Yours, with unfeigned respect,

"S. T. COLERIDGE."

J. DYKES CAMPBELL.

#### THE HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS COMMISSION.

##### THE RUTLAND PAPERS, PART II.

MR. MAXWELL LYTE's original report on the family papers of the Duke of Rutland, which appeared a few years ago, will doubtless be remembered, apart from its historical value, by the remarkable circumstances under which some of the more ancient manuscripts were discovered by him in a ruinous stable-loft at Belvoir Castle. The contents of that volume were largely descriptive of the domestic history of the Vernons, Talbots, and Mannors of the Tudor and early Stuart times, in connexion with their historic seats of Haddon and Hardwicke, together with some very acceptable contributions to the State Paper materials for Elizabethan and Jacobean history.

In the present volume the history of the family and that of the nation run on side by side down to the death of the Marquess of Granby and the dissolution of the Grafton ministry respectively; but it will be noticed that there are, as usually happens in the case of such private muniments, considerable breaks in the historical continuity for those periods in which the family failed to supply a statesman or a soldier. These gaps, however, are conveniently filled by the fashionable gossip of beaux and belles, or by local notices of considerable value, and this portion of the Calendar will probably prove most attractive to the general reader.

In a singularly graceful preface—unhappily, as usual, all too short—Mr. Lyte has pointed out the numerous features of interest presented by the several branches of correspondence. The volume, indeed, is so full of good things, and these have been so adroitly selected and marshalled in the preface, that we are obliged to resist the temptation of quoting a large part of the latter *in extenso*. Even so, however, there are some details left unnoticed, as may be seen from the following comprehensive sentence:—

"The Calendar contains abundant particulars as to banquets, masquerades, balls, and other entertainments at Court and elsewhere, matrimonial engagements made and broken, elopements effected, and duels fought."

Following this clue to the social revelations indicated here, it would be possible with the help of the index—in itself a most admirable piece of work, which will bear almost any test of reference successfully—to collect a fresh array of facts relating to the social and economic condition of this country in the seventeenth century, as a supplement to those which have been lately furnished by the Fleming, Coke, Dartmouth, and Osborne papers. There is, amongst others, a very curious story of a duel, or rather of the circumstances by which it was provoked, given at p. 118, and an interesting spelling and use of the word "triumph" at p. 61 in support of the approved etymology of a certain whist term. Some of the spelling, by the way, which occurs in the letters of ladies of high rank suggests that their accent and vocabulary were, to say the least, slightly provincial. In fact, they precisely resemble the conventional representation of the modern husbandman's dialect in the pages of *Punch*. For instance, that ingenious and discerning young lady Mistress Bridget Noel writes as follows to her sister the Countess of Rutland:—

"It is reported Lord Manchester is to be mared very suddenly to M. Cotteler, and Lord Notengam is to marry M<sup>rs</sup> Hatton, and Lord Hatton gives her 12 thousand pounds porshang, which in my openon is a great dell for Lord Notengam, being he has a son, and a dafter,"—

all of which, we should think, is good Sussex to the present day. However, it is not in such details as these, nor even in the really valuable and authoritative news-letters of the period, that the value of the present Calendar consists.

We should not forget, at the same time, that the line of demarcation between the State Papers and private (not professional) news-letters is a very fine one; and the narrative, at p. 178, of the "King of Spain's" visit to Windsor by Lady Rachel Russell is at least as complete as any other account in the official archives. This potentate, we are told, made himself quite at home, "pointing with his fork," whilst at dinner, to any dish he fancied, which the queen or her ladies hastened to "reach to him."

The real and only test of the historical value of any document lies in its admissibility as legal evidence, and the extent to which it can be admitted as evidence is determined by the circumstances under which it was written and preserved. Therefore the most important papers amongst the collections inspected by the Historical Manuscripts Commission are really those which belong to, or have a family relationship with, the official despatches or legal records which have been continuously preserved in the national archives. In the case of the manuscripts of the Duke of Leeds and the Marquess of Townshend amongst others, the importance of an immense mass of regular State Papers in private possession was pointed out in these columns. We may make a very similar observation with respect to the correspondence connected with the military career of the Marquess of Granby. It is not too much to say that nearly all this correspondence could be fitted into its proper place amongst the official despatches and letter-books. The despatches of the Marquess himself, however, are printed at some length in the Calendar from the inferior texts of the Belvoir letter-books, although the originals are preserved with the military despatches of the period. In the same way the originals of the Secretary of State's instructions to the Marquess are preserved at Belvoir Castle, and only entries are to be found in the official collection. Therefore more importance should, we venture to think, have been given here to the latter than to the former. On a previous occasion, in connexion with certain colonial



despatches of the same period, we suggested the desirability of some reference, if not of an actual collation, being made in the case of State Papers of which the originals or copies, as the case may be, are in official custody, and the existence of which is well known to a few English and to many foreign historians. It is to be hoped that in future some such reference may be made, although very little improvement could be wished for in the Calendar in the present instance.

The correspondence between Holles, Duke of Newcastle, and the Marquess of Granby, with the occasional references to the elder Pitt in his peculiar official relations, is also singularly valuable. It would seem that the astute chief of the Treasury was playing off the popular general against his imperious colleague and his German allies who had strong grounds for complaint against the Treasury, and as a check on their proceedings Granby was asked to receive a military attaché in the Duke's interests. Thus we read, "I am puzzled what to say to the paper you sent me from Prince Ferdinand. Mr. Pitt will not say a word upon it. *It is not in his department.* I have sent it to Ligonier," &c.

Another feature of real historical value may certainly be found in the inventories and other economic notices in which this collection is more than usually rich. On the whole, we think that the criticism with which we concluded our notice of the first part of this Report is still further justified by the excellence of its successor.

#### ENGLISH LITERATURE IN 1891.

On the second day of 1892 it is, of course, out of the question to pass any definite judgment on the literature of 1891. Nothing but an artificial arrangement of the calendar separates us from the literature of the year that has just come to a close, and there is no break of continuity between the thoughts and words of last December and those of the month just beginning. Yet it is convenient to take advantage of the date, and, turning over again the leaves of the books that have issued from the press during the twelve months, to form some sort of an opinion of their worth and merit as a whole. It is possible, of course, that some work has been given to the world destined to usher in a new departure: for a writer reviewing in January, 1799, the literature of 1798 might more than conceivably have left unnoticed the 'Lyrical Ballads'; yet admitting fully the possibility, if not the probability, of some such oversight, we may fairly say that the year has been distinctly uneventful, the recognized high road is still trodden, and no notable deviation has been attempted, or, at least, has been attempted with any considerable measure of success. History continues to incline more and more to become a study of documents: to belong to the literature of knowledge rather than of power. Poetry in the hands of the younger bards threatens to share the fate of architecture. Unless some new force arises, they will be content with the revival of past styles, and confess themselves unequal to the initiation of a manner or delivery of a message of their own. Although the fiction of 1891 is up to the average of recent years, the decline of the novel has not been arrested by the appearance of any new master. The short story, on the other hand, retains the popularity it has of recent years acquired, and appears to attract more talent to its service than a few years ago it could. Philosophy still languishes from

a disease somewhat similar to that which besets poetry. Apparently the days of construction are at an end, and the thinkers of to-day occupy themselves with criticizing the efforts of the past. Meanwhile æsthetic criticism has produced nothing of enduring value—nothing that can be said to have made a permanent place for itself. A great deal of ability is devoted to it, but ability of an imitative rather than original character—that repeats the catchwords of the day, or if it attempts to be novel, immediately ceases to be sane. One striking feature of the year's literature has been the number of books produced dealing with social problems, from Mr. C. Booth's elaborate work, of which the second volume appeared a few months ago, to catchpenny pamphlets which seek to take advantage of the general interest awakened in the condition of the labouring classes in country as well as in town. With these preliminary remarks we proceed to speak of the literature of the year in its various branches.

#### HISTORY.

The completion of Mr. Gardiner's 'History of the Great Civil War' (on which the author must be warmly congratulated) is a literary event of something like national importance. Its three volumes cover the period from August 22nd, 1642, when the King's standard was raised at Nottingham, to January 30th, 1649, the date of his death on the scaffold at Whitehall. The whole forms a continuation of the 'History of England from the Accession of James I.' and it is to be hoped that it will itself be succeeded by further instalments of that great work, bringing the narrative down at least to the Restoration. In the last-published volume (which alone falls within our present limits) are related the events of the war from 1647 to 1649, and in spite of Mr. Gardiner's deliberate and somewhat microscopic methods, the progress of the duel between Charles and Cromwell towards its tragic close is invested with extraordinary interest. Brilliant this 'History' cannot, indeed, justly be called; but, based as it is upon the only sure foundation for such a structure, a first-hand acquaintance with original documents, it will stand the wear and tear of time, *monumentum ære perennius*. Its author has shirked no difficulties; he has laboriously investigated in person every scrap of accessible evidence, and sifted it with the studied impartiality of a judge; and if he is not endowed with the supreme graces of style that go to the making of a Gibbon or a Macaulay, he deserves, and will receive, high praise for having placed upon unimpeachable record the ascertained facts connected with a constitutional crisis such as the world has seldom witnessed.

We have given Mr. Gardiner's work the first place in our review partly because it is concerned with the story of our own land, and partly because the year just ended saw its completion: otherwise the two initial volumes of Prof. Freeman's colossal 'History of Sicily' would claim, as they merit, priority of mention. The famous saying of Pindar, ἀρχομένου δ' ἔργου πρόσωπον χρηθήμεν τῇ λαυνῇ, might fitly be applied to this steadily commencement of an undertaking which, devised as it is on the grandest scale and executed with an almost over-

scrupulous accuracy, bids fair to rival, if not to surpass, the 'History of the Norman Conquest.' It is to be nothing less, in short, than a panoramic account of the "central island of Europe," extending over some twenty centuries, from the earliest times down to the death of the great Emperor Frederic in 1250 A.D. Needless to say, such a task is acceptable to the Rede Lecturer on the Unity of History—enabling him to show how indissolubly the events of any special epoch are linked to those which precede and follow it, and how meaningless are the old-fashioned terms "ancient" and "modern" when applied to the science which heloves. From the portion of the work already published, which concludes with the first interference of Athens in Sicilian affairs, about the middle of the fifth century B.C., it is evident that this mighty labour has found a Hercules capable of grappling with it in its entirety. Prof. Freeman fully acknowledges his indebtedness to his predecessors, especially the German scholars Holm and Schubring, and Sir Henry Bunbury's 'Ancient Geography' among other English authorities is justly praised; but he claims to be the first who has treated the whole story in full as a contribution to universal history. The next volume, inasmuch as it will contain the story of the disastrous "Sicilian expedition" which humbled the pride of the Athenians, will be eagerly awaited by every student of Thucydides and Grote.

After these two contributions to historical knowledge which allow us to see the past clearly, Mr. Froude's 'Divorce of Catherine of Aragon' is somewhat in the nature of a stained-glass window. The contrast in style and method is complete. A man of genius and a born artist in language, Mr. Froude adorns everything he touches, but his adornments are often made at the expense of accuracy. No one, for example (if we except Sir Charles Dilke in his first book), has ever given the English people so fascinating an account of their colonial possessions as was to be found in 'Oceana' and 'The Bow of Ulysses,' yet both those charming books have been riddled by local criticism, and convicted of countless inaccuracies. In this his latest utterance upon Tudor times (which he desires to be regarded as a supplement to the famous 'History') Mr. Froude's great qualities and their defects are equally apparent. Still convinced—a very *Athanasius contra mundum*—that patriotism, rather than passion, was Henry's dominant motive in seeking his divorce, the author brings forward the evidence of the Imperial ambassadors at the English Court in support of the paradoxes he formulated thirty-five years ago, and with a sublime impotence declares that he has no errors to confess. It is hardly too much to say that the progress of research has led every other competent investigator to an absolutely contrary conclusion; and despite the glamour which Mr. Froude knows so well how to throw around his readers, all impartial critics are bound to express dissent from the verdict he has once more pronounced.

The events of the past ten years in a region which has borne for this country a mingled crop of glory and disgrace have been discussed by Major Wingate in a

stout volume entitled 'Mahdiism and the Egyptian Sudan,' which no student of the external history of England can afford to neglect. This laborious piece of work, from its somewhat incoherent arrangement, will rather serve as a storehouse of facts for future historians than take its place as a finished chronicle. Yet it throws much light on the obscure subject of Mahdiism, and the heroic defence of Khartoum is movingly described from the testimony of eye-witnesses, though but little is added to the painful details of Gordon's death. Since that time the attention of England has been to some extent diverted from those quarters of the world, but Major Wingate gives an interesting account of the further progress of the revolt from the date of the withdrawal of the British troops to the beginning of last year, when the Egyptian Government reoccupied Tokar.

The publication of a volume (for which Mr. A. Egmont Hake is responsible) dealing with 'Events in the Taeping Rebellion' carries us back from the tragedy of Khartoum to one of the earlier episodes of the hero's eventful career, and may thus be properly recorded at this point. The book is in four parts—first, a well-written notice of "Gordon as a Leader of Men," contributed by the editor; secondly, a study of the causes which led to the rebellion, also from his pen; thirdly, an anonymous journal, presumably Gordon's, of the incidents of its suppression; and fourthly, some striking reminiscences of the campaign by one of his officers.

The flood of recriminatory literature which followed the Emin Relief Expedition has fortunately spent its force. In 1891 the only book of any importance upon the subject (if we except Mr. Jameson's 'Journals,' posthumously edited by his widow, and Mr. Herbert Ward's 'Life with Stanley's Rear Guard') was Dr. Parke's account of his own share in the enterprise, which added a good deal to the narratives already published, and was distinguished from some of them by the modesty and generosity of its tone. The same qualities were conspicuous in Mrs. Grimwood's unaffected narrative of the miserable fiasco at Manipur, to which she added Major Grant's stirring despatches describing the gallant stand at Thobal.

Before we conclude this division of our review it is only right that a word should be devoted to the admirable reprint of the late Mr. J. R. Green's 'Short History of the English People,' now being issued by Messrs. Macmillan in monthly numbers. The illustrations are of the highest excellence, and the paper and printing of the book (it is almost unnecessary to say) leave nothing to be desired.

#### BIOGRAPHY.

Biographies have been as plentiful as blackberries during the year just ended, and, though none of them has attained the highest rank, several have achieved a measure of success. The demand for this class of literary goods certainly appears to be on the increase, and when a book contains what are known as "personal reminiscences" its popularity with the public knows no bounds. Considering the comparative obscurity and insignificance of some of those who have their lives written, or write them

for themselves, such volumes are often inordinately long, but they somehow manage to secure a large number of readers.

In dealing with the picturesque career of the late Cardinal Newman Miss Mozley can scarcely be said to have made the best use of her opportunity, but, regarded as a supplement to the 'Apologia,' her work, though inartistic in arrangement and often monotonous in style, was not without considerable interest. Seventy-six pages of it consist of an autobiographical memoir from the Cardinal's own pen, and this portion, descriptive as it is of his early home and education, supplies several gaps in our knowledge which it is well to have filled. Of Prof. Newman's exhibition of *fraternum odium* it is perhaps more charitable to keep silence, while upon the two smaller biographies, by Mr. Fletcher and Mr. Meynell, it is unnecessary to dwell here, except to say that each has certain modest merits of its own.

In writing of Robert Browning Mrs. Sutherland Orr undertook a difficult and delicate task, having regard to the known wishes of the poet, and his masculine assertion, more than once reiterated, that his inner life was his own, and not the property of his countrymen. It was generally admitted that she acquitted herself with considerable tact and discretion, and for the present, at all events, we must be content with the clearly drawn outlines she has given us. Nothing in the book was more delightful than the letters from Mrs. Browning to her sister-in-law, written shortly after the settlement of the runaway couple in Italy. The freshness and charm of this correspondence made all who read it eager for more.

Another important life was that of John Murray the second, the famous publisher, to the compilation of which Dr. Smiles brought all his usual industry. As an account of the literary movements of the end of the last century and the beginning of the present the book possesses permanent value, and will be found extremely useful for reference; while its wealth of anecdote and continual allusions to the celebrated authors of the day, nearly all of whom came into personal contact with Mr. Murray, impart a most agreeable flavour to the detailed narrative of the origin and progress of the firm.

It seems to be inseparable from the blessed state of a Royal Academician that he should recount his experiences as an encouragement to his less successful brethren. Mr. T. Sidney Cooper's garrulous volume appeared before the year began, but it may receive a passing mention here, for in spite of much tedious triviality it was, in virtue of its *naïveté* and straightforwardness, by no means an unattractive book. The life of Richard Redgrave (compiled from his diary by his daughter) was altogether on a higher level, and, while more vivaciously written, was freer from indiscretions and bad taste. A similar meed of praise may be also bestowed on another work of filial piety—the odd, but entertaining life of Henry Dawson, the landscape painter. More lately have appeared the autobiography of Cope, the Royal Academician, and Mr. Frith's memoirs of Leech, scarcely a satisfactory performance.

With their account of the early art life and dramatic career of Jenny Lind, Canon

Scott Holland and Mr. W. S. Rockstro achieved a certain measure of success, and they might have achieved still more had they possessed greater literary tact.

On the other hand, Mr. Austin Dobson's sumptuous and elaborate 'Memoir of Horace Walpole' was the highly satisfactory accomplishment of a highly difficult undertaking. Walpole's career was not full of moving incidents, nor were there any salient points in his story to break the subject up into convenient divisions. Mr. Dobson must be warmly congratulated on the skill he has shown in selecting and arranging his materials while drawing upon his extensive knowledge of the literary history of Walpole's times to illustrate the facts which he relates. The book appeared by a fortunate coincidence almost simultaneously with Messrs. Bentley's handsome reprint in nine volumes of Cunningham's edition of Walpole's letters. And while we are talking of letters we must not forget Mr. Colvin's "definitive" edition of the correspondence of Keats, which was executed with the neatness and accuracy characteristic of Mr. Colvin's work.

Among the other biographies of literary men published in 1891 few attracted more attention than the 'Life of Laurence Oliphant,' whose brilliant versatility and single-hearted enthusiasm (for which his wife was equally conspicuous) were sympathetically depicted by his distant kinswoman and namesake the well-known novelist; but the somewhat scrappy and inadequate 'Life of Thackeray,' conjointly produced by Mr. Herman Merivale and Mr. Marzials, was scarcely more satisfactory than Anthony Trollope's unfortunate attempt in the "Men of Letters" series, and revived the desire so generally felt that the task may be undertaken by the only person really competent to execute it, the great satirist's own daughter, Mrs. Richmond Ritchie.

Statesmen figured largely in the list of last year's biographies, yet, with the exception of the short life of Pitt by Lord Rosebery (the success of whose literary *début* gratified, but did not surprise, those who knew anything of his lordship's gifts), nothing of conspicuous excellence was forthcoming. Mr. C. S. Parker's first instalment of a monumental work on Sir Robert Peel, published under the direction of the present trustees of his papers, was a praiseworthy performance, and went far to make up for the disappointment occasioned by Mr. Goldwin Smith's inability to carry out this important undertaking (for which he had been originally selected), owing to his removal to Canada; but the book cannot, of course, compete with such biographical masterpieces as Sir George Trevelyan's lives of Macaulay and Fox. Mr. Thursfield's monograph on the great English Premier, though executed on a much smaller scale, was lucid, animated, and artistic, and decidedly superior to Mr. Justin McCarthy's little volume in the series of the "Queen's Prime Ministers." Of Viscount Hardinge his son and private secretary, the present peer, wrote an interesting memoir to be included in the series of the "Rulers of India," dealing with the military and political achievements of his father's long and distinguished career as a soldier and administrator. And we must



not omit to mention here the excellent life of the late Arthur MacMurrough Kavanagh, from the pen of Mrs. Steele, which presented a singularly attractive picture of an indomitable and many-sided personality.

The Bishop of Rochester and Canon Benham's life of Archbishop Taft, full as it was of varied and valuable information, was too bulky to be easy reading, and created a feeling of regret that so good an opportunity had been to some extent lost. A great deal might have been omitted from its two volumes, the insertion of which impeded the movement of the story, and went far to obscure the portrait of one who was at the same time a powerful prelate and a distinguished statesman. Bishop Wordsworth's annals of his early life, on the other hand, though loaded with an excessive weight of verses and testimonials, was an extremely entertaining autobiography, with its genial recollections of the cricket matches, boat races, and other more imposing competitions in which the good bishop took so active and successful a part. Of Mr. Overton's short life of John Wesley it is also possible to speak with considerable commendation, though it added little to the outspoken self-criticism of the great divine's own 'Journal.' Dr. Goulburn has devoted two rather rambling volumes to the late Dean of Chichester, one of the most lovable of men, if one of the most hot-headed of controversialists. As semi-theological in character we may here include Father Bridgett's life of Sir Thomas More, which was an excellent piece of work, and added to the reputation already gained by the author with his valuable memoir of Bishop Fisher.

Mr. Edmund Gosse's life of his father, the eminent zoologist, was a well-constructed and ably-written account of one who, in spite of a certain narrowness and inaccessibility, was a truly good and, in his way, a truly great man. Mr. Montagu Williams's further reminiscences of his practising days formed the prelude to an unaffected narrative of his experiences as a metropolitan magistrate, which he employed as the vehicle of several useful and original suggestions for the mitigation of East-End poverty. In the life of E. L. Blanchard, by Mr. Clement Scott and Mr. Cecil Howard, the writers, besides doing full justice to a career of manly independence and indefatigable industry, furnished, if in a somewhat fragmentary form, as complete a record as exists of theatrical affairs during the last half century. Finally, Mr. Percy Fitzgerald put together, in a slipshod fashion peculiarly his own, a cumbrous and careless biography of one who deserved a better fate than to fall into such ineffective hands—James Boswell of Auchinleck.

## POETRY.

The chronicler of the poetry of 1891 has nothing of supreme importance to record. Lord Tennyson's promised volume still tarries, and Mr. Swinburne's muse, with the exception of certain fine utterances in our own columns and elsewhere, has also been unproductive. Yet we have had the good fortune to receive another volume from Mr. William Morris, 'Poems by the Way,' and the year has brought to light a considerable quantity of interesting verse, which in some

cases has proceeded from very unexpected quarters. To take a great and justly honoured name first, the juvenile 'Poems' of Mr. Ruskin, sedulously suppressed by their author up to the present time, have been given to the world, with questionable prudence, by his friend and disciple Mr. Collingwood. Considering the quality of these poems, which were written for the most part between Mr. Ruskin's eighth year and his twenty-sixth, and possess at best only an autobiographical interest, the sumptuous character of their production savours somewhat of a commercial enterprise, which will doubtless prove successful, but is not on that account the less to be deprecated. Of the verses themselves we have but recently spoken, and there is really not much more to be said about them than that they form an interesting commentary to 'Præterita,' are redolent of Scott and Byron and other contemporary influences, and, though they anticipate in some measure the later teaching of their author, will not add one jot to the reputation he has independently acquired.

Another distinguished writer, known as an able if not inspired historian, has also entered the poetical lists during the past year, and thrown down his gauntlet to the critics in the shape of a tiny volume containing the lyric harvest of a lifetime. We allude, of course, to Mr. Lecky; and it must, we think, by this time have become apparent to him that in issuing his verses for public rather than private circulation he made a regrettable mistake. Their subjects were trivial, and their style, it is to be confessed, sadly commonplace; and though redeemed here and there by a touch of deeper insight or a felicitously expressed idea, the little book remains a strange example of that deficiency in self-criticism which not unfrequently accompanies unquestionable talent.

'Poems by the Way' is a truly delightful volume, animated by the genuine sensibility to beauty, nature, and the elementary human feelings which characterizes Mr. William Morris. The diction is occasionally—only occasionally—open to the charge of affectation, or at least would be in another author; but to Mr. Morris archaisms are natural, and are not consciously intruded by him. The healthy, manly tone of this miscellany of graceful verse deserves hearty recognition.

To the success of 'The Epic of Hades' the world probably owes 'A Vision of Saints'; but Mr. Lewis Morris is hardly to be congratulated on his second essay in this particular field so warmly as on his first. His Greek ghosts told their own stories with some dramatic force and verisimilitude; but the beatified dwellers in the empyrean are mere *κῶφα πρόσωπα*. Their deeds are related to the poet by an "angelic guide," who accompanies him on his journey into the unseen world in the capacity of showman; and the coldness of this method of procedure communicates itself to the versification in a way which was not felt in the earlier poem, where the heroes and heroines were their own exponents. Otherwise the characteristic virtues and faults of Mr. Lewis Morris's style are displayed to much the same extent and in much the same manner as before. The verse is simple, clear, and occasionally spirited; but it too frequently sinks to a level of exasperating monotony, and it is marred by certain pecu-

liarities (in the shape of rhymes and assonances) which are by no means to be commended.

A parallel instance of a new attempt on old lines was furnished by Sir Edwin Arnold's ambitious poem 'The Light of the World,' in which he obviously hoped and expected to repeat the success he had achieved with 'The Light of Asia.' As we pointed out, however, at the time the book appeared, in dealing with a theme so familiar as the tale of our Lord's ministry on earth the author was deprived of the chief advantages he enjoyed on the previous occasion. Few persons were competent to criticize his exposition of the life and character of Buddha, and the public were content perforce to take it on trust, not without a respectful admiration, mainly born of ignorance, for the Oriental imagery in which it was conveyed. But every reader of the New Testament was competent to form an opinion upon the merits of 'The Light of the World,' and these Eastern fripperies had lost the charm of novelty. The framework of the poem, too, was clumsy and unnatural, consisting as it did of long and tedious dialogues; and the easy fluency of Sir Edwin's verse could not conceal the numerous faults of taste and expression which almost every page revealed. Altogether it has, we imagine, little or no chance of rivalling the indisputable popularity of its prototype.

In 'Daphne, and other Poems,' Mr. Frederick Tennyson has, after the lapse of many years, given to the world a work of his early manhood, which confirms the impression produced by his former essay of 'The Isles of Greece.' A true poet, though with a somewhat limited range of feeling and a lamentable diffuseness of style, he brings to bear upon the legends of the ancient world an analytical spirit which weakens, while it dissects, their strength and charm. A genuine love of these antique stories, and of the scenery in which they had their birth, distinguishes all that he writes; but we miss in it the large handling and ample atmosphere of Homer, and that frank recognition of man's whole nature, physical and moral, which characterized the best minds of Greece. Mr. W. G. Palgrave's posthumously published 'Vision of Life' was a work of sterling poetic quality, but it unfortunately never received its author's final revision, and had consequently to appear in a mutilated form. Mr. Palgrave might almost be described as a *Milton manqué*, for he brought to this epic venture a combination of erudition and experience which was commoner in the seventeenth century than it is to-day.

Among the minor verse of the year we must include Mr. Stevenson's 'Ballads,' which came as something of a disappointment to the many admirers of this masculine writer. 'Ticonderoga' had already made its mark as a good piece of narrative verse; but the Tahitian poems, which formed the staple of the book, were not sufficiently attractive, or indeed intelligible, to secure the attention and sympathy of English readers. We would give the whole bundle of these 'Ballads' for another 'Master of Ballantrae.'

Mr. Bridges has issued his 'Shorter Poems' in a form entirely satisfactory.



Three of the four books into which they are divided contain verses previously published, but hitherto unattainable by the general, while the last introduces to his old admirers and a new and wider circle of readers some thirty pieces which have never been in print before. Some of these are as good as anything the Oxford poet has given us, and possess a quaint individuality which is all their own, though it does not renounce kinship with the lyrical methods of the Elizabethan and Jacobean singers. Besides this volume of verse Mr. Bridges has provided Prof. Stanford with a really poetical libretto (the thing seems almost a contradiction in terms) for his oratorio of 'Eden,' produced at the recent Birmingham Festival. The "book" is based upon the original sketch of Milton's intended tragedy 'Adam Unparadised,' belonging to the library of Trinity College, Cambridge. It is a strikingly unconventional work, and deserves to be seriously considered as a contribution to the verse of the year, though Mr. Bridges apologizes for its hasty composition, and throws out the hint that it has not yet assumed its final shape.

The reissue with additions of Mr. Bridges's poems suggests the mention of 'Ionica,' which, to the delight of many old Etonians and others, came out again (in a light-blue costume) early last spring. The first edition was disfigured by several misprints, but it was soon followed by a second from which these little blemishes had disappeared. It is to be sincerely hoped that the anonymous author of this charming if unequal volume may have other treats in store for those who can appreciate the delicacy of his pathos, and catch something of the glow of his patriotism.

Of the lesser members of the poetic fraternity little remains to be said. Dr. Todhunter has published his graceful 'Sicilian Idyll,' which met with something more than a *succès d'estime* upon the boards of a private suburban theatre, and has since, we believe, been repeated in London. Mr. William Sharp's 'Sospiri di Roma' seemed to be an attempt at writing verse almost as loose and untrammelled as that of Walt Whitman, though its careful and occasionally exquisite diction was far removed from the harshnesses and crudities of the American poet. But no beauty of phrase will ever atone for the flaccidity which characterizes all structureless, invertebrate creations, and the deepest of these "Sospiri" should be heaved over the fact that so many good words have been allowed to run rhymelessly to waste.

Mr. William Watson (save for sundry stray stanzas in newspapers and magazines) has seen fit to rest upon the laurels he gained with 'Wordsworth's Grave,' which during the year has reached more than one new edition. The same honour has fallen to the lot of Mr. J. K. Stephen's 'Lapsus Calami,' an agreeable miscellany of schoolboy and undergraduate trifles which recalled to Cambridge men (*quodam tamen intervallo*) the classic C. S. C. The same writer has since made a bid for favour with a second volume entitled 'Quo Musa Tendis?' and written in an avowedly graver style. An equally successful ebullition of university wit was seen at St. Andrews, where 'The Scarlet Gown' of Mr. Murray provoked much amusement and applause.

Other names we might pass in review, for the votaries of the lyric muse are legion; but of all things there cometh an end, and some dead and buried failures it were an unkindly task to disinter. The world still waits for a new *vates sacer*, and occasionally, in its impatience to greet him, it places a crown upon an unworthy head; but the months slip by, the world's wreath withers, and its mistakes are rectified almost as soon as they are made.

#### FICTION.

Of fiction we have had a fuller harvest than usual, and its quality compares well with that of previous seasons. The average was undoubtedly raised by the appearance in book form of Mr. George Meredith's powerful and tragic novel 'One of our Conquerors,' by Mr. Hardy's contributions, the stories of Mr. Kipling, and the ambitious ventures of Lucas Malet and Mrs. Woods. 'One of our Conquerors' is not a 'Richard Feverel,' still less an 'Egoist,' but it is, for all that, a remarkable specimen of Mr. Meredith's difficult humour, and its character-drawing is extraordinarily subtle and skilful. The heroine, Nesta Radnor, is an exquisite creation, and she will take her place close beside Lucy and Clara, and not far from Diana herself, in virtue of her native wit and womanly charm. The book positively coruscates with brilliant things, and if its writer's utterances are not unfrequently too cryptic to be understood of the people, they provide a useful antidote to the brainless and heartless futilities that are found in so many of the hack stories of to-day. A book by Mr. Meredith administers a series of stimulating electric shocks to its readers, and the year which sees the liberation of so potent an educational force deserves to be marked with a white stone. Mr. Hardy has been well to the fore during 1891. 'A Group of Noble Dames' (an enlargement of his Christmas contribution to the *Graphic* of the preceding year) was a collection of romantic tales about certain Wessex ladies, related in turn by the members of a local antiquarian society, when snow-bound in the county museum. Another piece of work on a more imposing scale was the novel (also published in the *Graphic* as a serial) 'Tess of the d'Urbervilles,' in which Mr. Hardy's great powers of description and analysis have full play. His rustics are as good as ever, and his style, with its strong and but seldom unpleasant flavour, shows no signs of deterioration.

One of the most striking as well as painful books of the year was Lucas Malet's story called 'The Wages of Sin.' The hand that drew 'Colonel Enderby's Wife' and 'Mrs. Lorimer' has not lost its cunning, yet it may be doubted whether the central incident in 'The Wages of Sin' is exactly suited to English ideas. But whatever view may be taken on this subject, the fact remains that the book, regarded as a whole, registers the high-water mark up to the present time of Lucas Malet's achievement as a novelist.

Mr. Black's story 'Donald Ross of Heimra,' excellent as it is, does not materially affect his reputation. Its scene is laid in the Highlands, and its characters are the Gael and the Sassenach as heretofore, though

in a somewhat unusual juxtaposition, which is the source of much serio-comic "divarision" in Mr. Black's well-known manner. *Mutatis mutandis*, much the same may be said of the work of another popular writer, Mr. Baring-Gould, whose 'Urith: a Tale of Dartmoor,' contains few surprises for those who have read 'Mehalah'; and of that of Mr. Clark Russell, as exemplified by 'A Marriage at Sea' and 'My Danish Sweet-heart,' in the latter of which, at all events, he is at his best and briniest, but in neither strikes a new note.

Mr. Shorthouse's 'Blanche, Lady Falaise,' showed once more (if further demonstration were needed) that he is not likely to repeat the sensational success of 'John Inglesant,' and in spite of all his delicacy of style will go down to posterity as *homo unius libri*. Mrs. Oliphant's last novel, on the other hand, fairly sustained her reputation for pleasant and natural story-telling, though we have seen stronger things from her pen than 'The Railway Man and his Children.' A similar criticism applies to Mr. Norris's most recent novel, 'Mr. Chaine's Sons,' which was of a melodramatic, but somewhat commonplace character. Mr. Oscar Wilde's book, 'The Picture of Dorian Gray,' is exceedingly clever, but also exceedingly unpleasant.

Among the less established favourites Mrs. Woods must be singled out for special approbation, though with all due deference we venture to question the advisability of her abandonment of the lines she had marked out for herself in 'A Village Tragedy' for the slippery paths of historical fiction. As a *tour de force* 'Esther Vanhomrigh' ranks exceedingly high, even when it is brought into comparison (as was inevitable) with 'Esmond,' and the sphinx-like character of Swift is drawn with an artistic assurance which is little short of astonishing.

Mr. Hall Caine in 'The Scapegoat' showed that his Manx and Norse studies had by no means exhausted his possibilities. Morocco (by which is ordinarily meant Tangier) has been described almost *ad nauseam* in the journal of many a traveller; but the country has never before, we believe, furnished the background for a novel, and Mr. Hall Caine, whatever may be thought of his mysterious heroine, has certainly made the most of his opportunity in this respect.

Mr. Kipling still holds on his victorious career. There has been a cessation, indeed, of the blue-paper Indian reprints, if we except 'The City of Dreadful Night,' a journalistic *réchauffé* of very little value or importance. But 'The Light that Failed,' disagreeable book as it was in many ways, conclusively proved that Mr. Kipling could employ a larger canvas than some had expected, and fill it with a bold and masterly hand. 'Life's Handicap,' too, consisting of a series of tales from various magazines, contained, among much that was ephemeral and unsubstantial, some of his strongest and soundest work. He has never, we think, done anything finer than 'The Courtship of Dinah Shadd,' 'Without Benefit of Clergy,' and 'On Greenhow Hill.' These three stories alone would have secured him a high literary reputation.

The success achieved by Mr. Barrie with 'The Little Minister' was one of the most noteworthy incidents of the season of 1891.

The book was received with a unanimous outburst of praise, the echoes of which have scarcely subsided, and it is not easy at present to say whether the effect produced by its appearance is likely to be permanent. But those who love the "Auld Lichts" of Thrums will admit of no doubt on this score, and we are inclined to agree with them. The little minister himself, and still more the wild "Egyptian" Babbie, are notable additions to that brilliant portrait gallery; while so far as humour and pathos are concerned no falling off is discernible from the high standard Mr. Barrie had already attained, but rather an advance to better things.

We cannot speak so favourably of 'The Witch of Prague,' in which Mr. Marion Crawford distinctly sinks below the level of 'Mr. Isaacs.' In that fascinating book the supernatural marvels took place without comment or explanation, but the hypnotic mysteries of 'The Witch of Prague' are vouched for on medical authority in a way which seriously discounts their artistic value. It is an unpleasant thing to say, but it is impossible to deny that Archdeacon Farrar's lurid sketch of Rome in the days of Nero, entitled 'Darkness and Dawn,' is anything but pinchbeck. Mr. Weyman's tale of a country parish, 'The New Rector,' recalled Anthony Trollope's handling of such subjects, but was less true to life than any of the Barsestshire series. Mr. du Maurier made a brilliant excursion into the domain of fiction with 'Peter Ibbetson,' a vague but fascinating story completely *sui generis*, fantastically illustrated by its author's hand. Mr. Rider Haggard's 'Eric' possessed a certain virility, and its Vikings were done as well as their author knew how, in the blood-and-thunder style with which his readers are familiar. We must not forget to mention also "Lance Falconer," who has followed up 'Mademoiselle Ixe' by a collection of short stories, and more recently by a tale eminently suited to the Psychical Society, called 'Cecilia de Noel,' which deals with one of the shadowy denizens of the unseen world. A word must be given as well to 'Tim,' a very able little study of boy life, which to some extent reminds us of Miss Montgomery's 'Misunderstood'; to a "farical extravagance" by Mr. Anstey, known as 'Tourmalin's Time Cheques,' in which a happy idea is ludicrously, if somewhat confusedly developed; and to 'Beggars All,' a work which shows more signs of future excellence than any other effort of a writer new to fame.

#### PHILOSOPHY, POLITICAL ECONOMY, ETC.

In works dealing with philosophy and kindred subjects the year was not particularly rich, but the few books published were all of an important kind. Chief among them was Mr. Herbert Spencer's 'Justice,' forming part iv. of the 'Principles of Ethics.' The subject had been dealt with before in Mr. Spencer's early work 'Social Statics,' but in this volume it was treated with certain differences of method, and, to use the author's own words, "whereas a biological origin for ethics was in 'Social Statics' only indicated, such origin has now been definitely set forth, and the elaboration of its consequences has become the cardinal trait."

Of the appendices which the book contains the admirable study of 'Conscience in Animals,' by Mr. J. M. Jones, may be specially commended.

Prof. Sidgwick's thoughtful and stimulating 'Elements of Politics' is a work of which Cambridge may be justly proud. It displayed to the full its author's powers of subtle analysis and lucid expression, for which his 'Methods of Ethics' was so notably distinguished. Another eminent Cambridge man, Prof. Marshall, has added to the reputation which he already enjoyed as an acute and many-sided student of industrial questions by his treatise on 'The Principles of Economics,' which was to some extent the protest of a cool observer against the crude and hasty action to which the narrow theorist is prone, while it exhibited a genuine sympathy with the distress occasioned by the harsh working of modern economic arrangements. Mr. Keynes (already known as a clever writer on logic) and Mr. L. L. Price have also contributed two useful, but more elementary works to the economic literature of the year, the great increase of which is a sign of the times.

In theological controversy, since the appearance of 'Lux Mundi,' there has been a welcome lull; but the recent publication by Mr. Charles Gore of his "Bampton Lectures" on the Incarnation has revived in some measure the flagging interest of the country. Mr. Gore's lectures, as might have been expected of him, were cogently argued and informed with wide and accurate learning, and they should on this account alone take a high place among Christian apologetics; but whether with their wire-drawn theories they are likely to effect much in the direction of "confuting all heretics and schismatics" may be fairly doubted.

Mr. Saintsbury's 'Essays in English Literature' and on 'French Novelists' showed him as what he is, thoroughly well informed and competent. Mr. Saintsbury always says what is worth saying, but he seems, unfortunately, to find difficulty (in spite of his own statements to the contrary) in investing his remarks with much individuality. Mr. John Morley's 'Studies in English Literature' had something of the same defect, and though the book, like all that Mr. Morley has written, was characterized by acuteness and liberality, its lack of humour and imagination rendered it rather heavy reading. Sir Frederick Pollock's 'Oxford Lectures,' on the other hand, while comprising subjects so diverse as ancient law and Alpine bibliography, were eminent examples of a literary method at once brilliant and incisive. Mr. George Moore's 'Impressions and Opinions' confirmed the conclusions already generally formed as to their author, that he is a man of great cleverness, but not always moderate in judgments, or impeccable in matters of taste. Mr. Oscar Wilde's 'Intentions' were largely made up of paradoxes, which could not altogether conceal their writer's capacity for doing better and more solid work. His recently published 'House of Pomegranates' (a collection of four allegorical tales) has undeniable architectural merits, but is overcrowded with æsthetic furniture and *bric-à-brac*. Miss Olive Schreiner's 'Dreams' were original to the verge of extravagance, and might almost have been

more suitably named 'Nightmares'; but they were not lacking in strength or destitute of charm. Much the same may be said of Lady Dilke's pretty volume called 'The Shrine of Love,' in continuation of her 'Shrine of Death,' which, though occasionally peculiar in design, was for the most part graceful in execution. Nor must we forget Mr. William Morris's Socialistic rhapsody 'News from Nowhere,' the work of a true poet, which contained passages of unmatched beauty and eloquence, but left its readers puzzled and unconvinced, or his prose romance 'The Glittering Plain.' "The Saga Library," which this admirable writer undertook in conjunction with Mr. Magnússon, threatens to be a greater undertaking than its projectors intended. The second volume, which belongs to 1891, includes the 'Ere-Dweller's Saga' and the fragmentary story of the Heathslayings.

#### MISCELLANEOUS: REPRINTS, ETC.

Foremost among the numerous valuable reprints for which the year has been noted we must place the fourteenth century poem 'Pearl,' which (in the Laureate's words) now "gleams reset in Britain's lyric coronet." Originally edited by Dr. Morris in 1864, it was practically inaccessible to ordinary readers, and Mr. Gollancz has done well in reproducing it, with an interpagated translation, in such a form as should render it more widely popular. Another work, which secured a welcome from all students of Shakspeare, was the fine three-volume edition of Painter's 'Palace of Pleasure' (reprinted from Haslewood's text of 1813, with corrections and additions), undertaken for Mr. Nutt by Mr. Joseph Jacobs, who has also laid the children of England under a fresh obligation by a charming collection of 'Celtic Fairy Tales.' Mr. W. C. Hazlitt gave to the world 'Some Unpublished Letters of Charles and Mary Lamb,' prefaced by much good advice to editors in general, and Lamb's editors in particular, which it would be well if he had followed himself. Translations (both in verse and prose) there have been many. The latter can scarcely claim a place in a review of English literature; but the former perhaps deserve a passing mention. Mr. Mackail produced some graceful renderings of a selection from the 'Greek Anthology,' while Mr. Headlam and Mr. Scott showed no little skill in their respective versions of Meleager and Calpurnius.

#### Literary Gossip.

MRS. HUMPHRY WARD's new novel, 'The History of David Grieve,' will be published on Friday, the 22nd inst., in London by Messrs. Smith, Elder & Co., and in New York by Messrs. Macmillan & Co.

The first volume of 'Twenty-five Years at St. Andrews,' A. K. H. B.'s reminiscences, is to come out this month. It begins at the beginning with a description of St. Andrews, its colleges, and their Principals, Forbes, Tulloch, and Shairp, and also its *habitués*, such as John Blackwood and Whyte Melville. It tells of Kingsley's visit when the British Association was at Dundee, and the visits of other noted people, such as Mrs. Oliphant, William Longman, Sir W. Stirling-



Maxwell; of Dean Stanley's sermons and those of Principal Caird at St. Andrews; and Mr. Froude's rectorial addresses. Nor is golf neglected, Tom Morris and other heroes being duly commemorated. The book is dedicated to the Bishop of Winchester. Unlike most of Dr. Boyd's writings, none of this has appeared in periodicals.

For the friends of Walt Whitman the Christmas season has passed in deep shadow, news of the poet's death having been almost hourly expected. On the 22nd of December a telegram from his bedside reached England announcing the imminence of this event, and stating that there was no hope of his recovery. A second telegram on the 23rd recorded that he was a little worse; and on the 24th a third message was to the effect that he was neither better nor worse. On Christmas Day he was again a trifle worse, but the bulletin of the 26th announced a slight change for the better. On the 29th the cable message was that he remained in the same state, neither better nor worse. Those who recall how often "the good gray poet" has been deemed at the point of death since first attacked by paralysis in 1873 may be pardoned for reading in these fluctuations a lesson of hope that he may rally from this attack also, and see, on its issue from the binder's hands, the new edition of his 'Leaves of Grass,' which was just printed before the dangerous crisis arrived.

NOTWITHSTANDING the long notices of Sir William White in the newspapers, especially a very able memoir in the *Times* by one who knew him well, there is still something to be said from the point of view of this journal. Of course his talent for languages has been referred to, and it is one of which he was proud. The number of languages he acknowledged was looked upon as very great, being twenty-eight. Yet he has been surpassed in mere numbers. His total, too, was largely made up by the Slav languages and dialects, and the distinctions between some of these are so slight as hardly to confer on each of them the title of a language. The real merit of White was that he made himself proficient in the whole body of them, and most of them he spoke with fluency and correctness of idiom, although it is alleged his thorough familiarity with Polish gave his Russian a Polish accent.

Yet, after all, the great secret of Sir William White's success lay not in his linguistic faculty, but in the power it gave him, which he applied to becoming master of complicated Eastern questions. The knowledge of the languages, and sometimes of slight distinctions, enabled him to study and appreciate the men of various races and their prejudices. These qualifications prepared the way for his advancement to the highest positions. It is to be observed that he was a linguist, like W. Gifford Palgrave, and not a scholar or a philologist, like Sir Thos. Wade or Mr. Ernest Satow; but it is not the case, as alleged, that White had no disposition for historical studies. He was attached to them, but had no time to occupy himself with them. On his retirement these pursuits would probably have occupied his leisure. At one time he was the only Englishman acquainted with Lithuanian, and he took the keenest interest

in the defence of the language against the Russian crusade for its suppression.

TALKING of languages, we may add that it has not been noticed that Mr. Thomas Kerr Lynch (or Tom Lynch), whose death the *Times* lately recorded, possessed something more than conversational proficiency in Oriental languages. By his marriage with the daughter of the eminent scholar Col. (General) Taylor and his long residence in Bagdad he became well acquainted with the literature of the schools of Bagdad and Syria, and also studied Turkish. His death is a loss, therefore, to our circle of Arabists and to those of them who are connected with the Royal Geographical Society.

M. RENAN is going to publish a volume of articles collected from various quarters, under the title of 'Feuilles Détachées.'

PROF. JAMES DARMESTETER is going to bring out this month, through Calmann Lévy, a volume of essays and studies in religious history called 'Les Prophètes d'Israël.'

M. PAUL BOURGET proposes to winter in Rome and put the last touches to 'Terre Promise,' and also finish another novel, 'Cosmopoli.'

THE wily publisher has lately adopted a new device for fleecing his secular victim that may be recommended to the notice of the *Author*. The wretch has taken to sending the author all the unfavourable reviews that appear of his immortal work, and suppressing the favourable ones. The result is, or is expected to be, that the author supposes his work to be a failure, and, when the time of submitting accounts arrives, either expects no cheque or is delighted with one of a most modest amount.

THE January number of the *English Historical Review* will include articles by Mr. J. E. Gilmore on 'Babylonia under the Greeks and Parthians'; by Mr. J. H. Round on 'The Introduction of Knight-Service into England' (third and concluding paper); by Miss Toulmin-Smith on 'English Popular Preaching in the Fourteenth Century'; by Mr. R. W. Ramsey on 'Elizabeth Claypole'; and by Mr. T. R. E. Holmes on 'Hodson of Hodson's Horse.' The Bishop of Peterborough will also contribute some documents on 'The Excommunication of Queen Elizabeth,' illustrating the embarrassment which that act caused to the Roman Catholics in England.

MR. R. A. KINGLAKE writes:—

"A subscriber in a recent number of the *Athenæum* opportunely refers to the unsatisfactory state of the 'Jefferies Memorial.' Miss Thomas, the sculptor of the memorial, applies to me at the same time, as treasurer, for payment of the remaining portion of her honorarium, which has been due to her for many months. Gladly would I have complied with the request of this sculptor, painter, and poetess, whose talents called forth the admiration of the late Mr. Russell Lowell when he unveiled the memorial of Fielding in the Shire Hall at Taunton; but, alas! the bankers informed me that there was no balance in hand, and to overdraw the account in such a cause, even if granted, I thought would not be reputable. I am, therefore, obliged to take the public into my confidence and solicit contributions for doing honour to one of the greatest and most fascinating writers of the nineteenth century. Cheques and post-office orders can be paid to the honorary treasurer, R. Arthur Kinglake,

Haines Hill, Taunton, which will be acknowledged in the advertising pages of the *Athenæum*."

AN attempt was made last month, says the *Newsagent*, to induce the London morning papers and some of the provincial to forego publishing on Christmas Day. Several of the newspapers were approached on the subject. In London the *Times*, *Daily Chronicle*, *Daily Graphic*, *Morning Advertiser*, and *Sporting Life* were not averse to the idea. Others were much opposed to it, as was to be expected. No doubt the movement will eventually succeed, as it is in harmony with the tendency of the times, and the newsagents, before many years are over, will, in all likelihood, obtain a rest both on Christmas Day and on Good Friday. The public hardly reads its morning paper on either day, and would scarcely miss it. The main obstacle in the way is the loss of profit to the proprietors of newspapers, which would no doubt be serious.

AT a meeting on Wednesday, the 23rd ult., the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres elected (to replace Minervini of Rome, deceased; Dr. Whitley Stokes and Prof. Ascoli, promoted to be foreign members) the following corresponding members: Prof. Leemans, of Leyden, the Egyptologist; Dr. Hirschfeld, of Berlin, one of the editors of the 'Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum'; and Dr. E. M. Thompson, Principal Librarian of the British Museum.

THE German Swiss have lost their most popular religious poet, and one well known throughout Teutonic lands, by the death of Friedrich Oser on December 16th. He was born at Bâle on February 29th, 1820, and studied theology in the university of his native city, and later at Berlin, Leipzig, Prague, Vienna, and Munich. Few men of his time had sat under the lectures of so many famous theologians. In 1845 he became Pfarrer of Waldenburg in the Bâlese Jura. He published a long succession of volumes of hymns and religious poems, which, on account of their sweetness of melody, became the special favourites of German composers. His 'Weihnachtsgesänge' were set to music by Heller. The *Basler Nachrichten* says that a catalogue could be compiled of at least a hundred German and Swiss composers who set Oser's religious and secular *Lieder* to music. The lately deceased Tietz composed music to more than three hundred of Oser's *Lieder*.

MESSRS. SONNENSCHNIG & Co. are going to publish a new edition of 'Chesterfield's Letters,' edited by Dr. Bradshaw. It will contain three letters by Chesterfield discovered by Dr. Ingram among uncatalogued MSS. in the Library of Trinity College, Dublin, and some unpublished letters of Chesterfield from the archives of Dublin Castle; and the letter from Lord Charlemont in 1777, containing a criticism of Lord Chesterfield's 'Letters,' which was printed lately in one of the reports of the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

THE official catalogue (*Verzeichniss*) of the teachers and students of the Berlin Seminar für Orientalische Sprachen, for the term October 15th, 1891, to March 15th, 1892, has appeared. The teaching body seems to have undergone some changes. In the first place, the Lector in South Chinese



is An Fung Tschü, whose name does not occur in the *Verzeichniss* for 1890. Next, Dr. Moritz is entered not only as librarian, but as teacher of "Arabisch," while "Marokkanisch-Arabisch" is taught by Muhammed Bu Selham, a name also new. Another new teacher is the Lector in Suaheli, Amir bin Nasir Lomeri. The number of hearers is 118, against 132 in the early part of the year. The "non-official courses" are attended by 33 hearers.

DR. HOWARD FURNESS, of Philadelphia, has nearly carried through the press his Variorum edition of 'The Tempest.'

THE Rev. H. E. Hayden, of Wilkes-Barré, Pennsylvania, is sending to his subscribers the work on which he has been for many years engaged, 'Virginia Genealogies.' It will be a handsome octavo of 800 pages, and contain the history of sixteen leading Virginia families and their branches. The edition is limited to a few copies more than those subscribed for. The subscription list (price 1*l.*) has been for some time closed, the further copies being held at a larger price.

THE Rev. Dr. Deems, of New York, will write an introduction to a little manuscript book of prayers recently sold, among the papers of George Washington, in Philadelphia. It is said that the prayers will be printed in facsimile, so that experts may be able to give an opinion as to whether they are in Washington's handwriting. The writing somewhat resembles his youthful style, but the matter is by no means certain. That the prayers, if by him, were copied, is shown by the absence of his faults and archaisms in spelling.

THE Rev. J. Rickaby, of the Society of Jesus, is going to try to popularize St. Thomas Aquinas by translating the principal portions of the second part of the 'Summa' and annotating them. These, it may be added, are confined to St. Thomas's ethical views, and do not really touch on theology.

THE death is announced of Archdeacon Norris, who had only a few days before his decease accepted the deanery of Chichester. He took a First Class at Cambridge in the Classical Tripos in 1846, and in 1849 published a translation of the 'De Corona.' In that year he became one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools, and after he retired from that office in 1864 he published a number of educational works, of mainly a theological character—'The Catechist's Manual,' 'Key to the Gospel Narrative,' 'Rudiments of Theology,' &c. He had much to do with the building of the nave of Bristol Cathedral.

A NOTED Orientalist has just passed away at Göttingen in the person of Prof. P. A. de Lagarde, who succeeded Ewald in 1869, when the latter, after the annexation of Hanover, was deprived of his chair by the Prussians on account of his Guelphic proclivities. Prof. de Lagarde, whose real name was Bötticher, was born in 1827 at Berlin, and was the author of a number of learned works in the department of Iranian philology and of several highly valuable publications relating to the criticism of the text of the Bible. Prof. de Lagarde also published, besides poems, some political writings of a rather Conservative tendency.

AMONG the literary remains of Robert Hamerling a number of hitherto unknown poems are said to have been found, sufficient to form a volume. It is expected that they will be issued ere long in book form.

AT last we hear that the Herder-Geburts-haus at Mohrunge, which, as we reported at the beginning of last month, was in danger of being demolished for building purposes, has been permanently secured for the nation, through its purchase by a great-grandson of Herder's.

THE deaths are announced of M. Albert Wolff, of the *Figaro*, who, although of German birth, had long been one of the most influential of French journalists, and the most Parisian of them all in style and method; and of Mr. Davenport Adams, an industrious journalist and maker of books.

THOSE of the Parliamentary Papers of the week most likely to interest our readers are a Return of Seagoing War Ships, Naval Expenditure, Revenue, Tonnage of Mercantile Marine, and Value of Sea-borne Commerce of Various Countries, &c. (2*d.*); and a Statistical Abstract for the Colonies, 1876-1890 (9*d.*).

## SCIENCE

*British Ferns and Where Found.* By E. J. Lowe, F.R.S. (Sonnenschein & Co.)—The clumsiness of the title might, of itself, lead the reader to infer that the author was an inexperienced amateur. The name of Mr. E. J. Lowe is sufficient, however, to dissipate any such false inference, whilst those to whom the author may not be known will soon find, from an inspection of his pages, that they have to deal with one who has an extraordinarily wide acquaintance with his subject. Though unpretending in appearance, this little book contains descriptions, and in some cases figures, of no fewer than 1,794 varieties, arranged under forty-five species. To those conversant with the range of variation among ferns the number of varieties may not seem very remarkable. Another dozen might be added next week, especially if the list should take the form of a salesman's catalogue. But of these eighteen hundred varieties how many could be accurately defined? Certainly, they are marshalled in the little volume with great skill under divisions, groups, and sections, and these aggregates can be readily distinguished. Any attempt to go further, and to draw a hard-and-fast line between the several individuals constituting these aggregates, must needs be futile, not only from the difficulty of framing any scheme of words which shall serve adequately to express such minute differences, but also from the circumstance that the differences themselves are not always constant. Moreover, according to Mr. Lowe's own showing, many of them may occur simultaneously on the same plant. Speaking broadly, the variations appear to be the result either of excessive or of deficient nutrition, showing itself either in an increased subdivision of the frond or in a stunted and "dipauperate" condition. What causes these alterations is at present beyond our ken. Nor do we know whether these changes have any genetic significance—whether they are reversions to an ancestral condition or forecasts of a future state. These and cognate matters may be commended to fern lovers as subjects for investigation. By devoting their attention to them they would effect much more good than by the attempt to define the indefinable, and by the imposition of a name compounded of four or five adjectives, Latin or Greek, or both. The numerous varieties raised, or sup-

posed to have been raised, by crossing are of extreme interest, and the author as a man of science will be among the first to admit that the highly remarkable results he has attained should be subjected to the scrutiny of other observers, with a view to their confirmation or explanation. That there is a possibility of error in the interpretation of his observations is suggested by some oversights which cannot be attributed to the printer. Thus, at p. 161, we read of "Prof. Nageli of Zurich" and of "Count Leszaye Suminski of Berlin." On the same page we read that "the antheridia are spiral, ciliated bodies endowed with movement and called spermatozoids. They pass down the neck of the archegonia and fertilize the oosphere." It is true that this is a quotation from another book, but the fact that the present author should have allowed it to pass uncorrected does not prepossess the reader towards the unconditional acceptance of the interpretation put by Mr. Lowe on his own experiments. Whilst on scientific grounds advocating further experiment we would by no means desire to detract from the merits of this publication, which, independently of any points of doubtful interpretation, is indispensable to the lover and to the cultivator of hardy ferns.

*Our Country's Flowers, and how to Know Them.* By W. J. Gordon. (Day & Son.)—Of the very numerous books treating of the elements of botany which have been published of late years this is one of the most original in point of treatment, and, we may add, one of the best suited for its purpose. Its originality strikes us as we open the first chapter, which is devoted to local names. The use of these names is, nevertheless, extremely limited; but a scanty number of country folk, according to our experience, know anything about the "local names," and those who do employ them use only a very few of them, while their application is often vague. To begin to learn botany, then, by the acquirement of local names is, we venture to say, so much time thrown away. We do not undervalue genuine local names, but we think their study is a luxury which may be advantageously postponed till the student possesses some considerable knowledge of the plants themselves. The second chapter makes a bold plunge into the subject of classification, and would be, we should think, rather appalling to a beginner. Nevertheless, it only demands a little patient attention on the part of the pupil, and, this having been given, he will have acquired in a short time a fuller knowledge of the subject than can be obtained by the expenditure of an equal amount of time in the now fashionable study of selected types. In passing we note a confusion on p. 25 between "orders" and "tribes" which may prove a source of embarrassment to the student, and should, therefore, be corrected in any subsequent edition. The chapter on classification is repeated in different forms in the succeeding tabular scheme, and in that devoted to the natural orders. To these is appended a glossary. A series of coloured plates come next in order, comprising some roughly executed figures of representatives of the principal genera; and then we reach a so-called index of orders, which is substantially a repetition of what has gone before with the addition of references to the plates. A second index is devoted to the genera arranged under their several natural orders, but these latter in this case disposed alphabetically. Each genus is illustrated by a small woodcut showing its principal distinctive characters. The peculiar arrangement just alluded to rather interferes with that comparative study of one genus with another of the same order which is so desirable. Lastly we have an index of species comprising all those figured in the coloured plates. The work must have necessitated the expenditure of much labour, and the peculiarities of its construction render it specially liable to error. That the

author has, for the most part, avoided these pitfalls says much for the care he has bestowed in preparing his manuscript and revising his proofs.

*The Making of Flowers.* By the Rev. Prof. George Henslow. (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.)—This is an attempt to show why flowers are what they are and how they have become so. Prof. Henslow's explanation is "that all kinds of flowers are the result of a responsive power residing in the living protoplasm of the plant acting in concert with the external impulses received from its environment." In other words, living structure is influenced by the conditions under which it lives. As all things are more or less interdependent, we do not see that Prof. Henslow's dictum does much to clear up the difficulties of the problem. It simply restates a well-known fact—a fact further and more clearly expressed in the following passage:—

"The plant in all its parts is, as it were, struggling to keep in harmony with the external world. If it cannot do so it must succumb. If, on the other hand, it can vary so as to keep its own forces in equilibrium with those of the external world, it lives and thrives and the new characteristics which it may have developed become hereditary, and thus new species are obtained."

In the course of a few introductory passages the author contrives to give a very clear account of the principles which regulate the conformation of flowers, and then proceeds to show that the "interpretation of the differences of floral structures must be looked for in their adaptations to their environment, and especially to the visits of insects." If we accept as dogmas all Prof. Henslow's postulates, we shall have no difficulty in keeping in company with him all through his argument. But whilst we are willing to accept them as illustrations and as convenient means for grouping and marshalling facts, we cannot accept them as indisputable representations of the truth. Let us take the first illustration that meets our eye:—

"The cohesion of sepals, &c., is an advance upon freedom, and the general interpretation of this condition appears to be to gain strength to support the weight of the insect which alights on the 'limb' or free portions above the tube."

Now in the ordinary course of development the "cohesion" of the sepals into a tube is no advance upon freedom, but rather the reverse. The sepals or other parts originate independently, remain isolated for a brief period, but continue their growth in union so as to form a tube. Development or differentiation, so far from being advanced, is here really arrested. Again, if the tubular form is an adaptation to the weight of the insect, Prof. Henslow will have to show not only that tubular flowers are invariably or mainly cross-fertilized, but that the insects which effect the operation are relatively heavier than other visitants. Flat flowers, or those which have no tube, should also, according to this hypothesis, be close-fertilized or visited only by light-weight insects. It may be so, but a great deal of evidence will be required to substantiate such statements. The illustrations we have chosen may fitly indicate the general scope of the book. The arrangements and adaptations for securing the dispersal and due allocation of the pollen are discussed at some length. Then come chapters on peloria, honey-secreting glands, and a variety of other subjects, which to any one with a fancy for plants and their ways are fascinating reading. We may specially commend the remarks on the effects of mechanical strain as novel and interesting. Prof. Henslow's book is an elaborate exposition of the fact that plants and flowers, like other living beings, are creatures of circumstances. He may not always be correct in his interpretation of the relations between cause and effect, but his leading propositions can hardly be gainsaid, and his discussion of details, if not always convincing, will serve to stimulate observation and give increased interest

to the examination of even "the meanest flower that blows."

#### GEOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

WHATEVER we may think of Emin Pasha's proceedings as a German functionary, there can be no doubt that his masterful departure from the instructions received by him is resulting in interesting geographical discoveries. The *Mittheilungen aus den Deutschen Schutzgebieten* has just published two valuable maps, based upon observations made by Dr. Stuhlmann, the scientific companion of the Pasha. One of these maps shows the western shore of the Victoria Nyanza, from Bukoba, a German station in 1° 20' S., to Mengo, where Dr. Stuhlmann arrived in December, 1890. The other illustrates the journey from Bukoba to the capital of Karagwe, which Emin and Dr. Stuhlmann reached on February 28th, 1891. Since then Emin is reported to have gone through Ruhanda and past Mount Mfumbiro to the Albert Edward Lake, and to have rejoined some of his former troops, who have settled down in Kikonyo, to the west of the Semliki river. In the course of this journey Emin discovered a large river, Kifu, which rises in Uhhu, traverses Ruhanda, and flows into the Albert Edward Lake from the south. This river, which is represented on our maps by a lake called Kivo, rises apparently further to the south than any other head stream of the Nile; its volume, however, appears to be far inferior to that of the Victoria Nile, which issues from the Victoria Nyanza.

M. J. Barbosa Rodriguez, when travelling in the Amazons in 1872, discovered a curious jade amulet on the neck of a Tapuya woman. He has since then devoted much time to a study of the geographical distribution of similar amulets, and publishes a summary of his conclusions in a recent number of the *Revue de Géographie*. These amulets satisfactorily prove to him that America was peopled by two bodies of migrants, which started from Tartary. One body crossed the Pacific to California, and spread thence southward along the western seaboard as far as Chile; whilst the other body crossed all Europe and then the Atlantic to the Antilles. M. Quatre-fages, who adds a few notes to this article, seems inclined to support the author's conclusions.

The Royal Scottish Geographical Society cannot be charged with taking too narrow a view of the field which the department of knowledge cultivated by it with such success can be supposed to cover. The series of articles recently printed in its *Magazine* under the heading of 'Britannic Confederation' are most certainly political rather than geographical; but they contain some useful hints, and we are glad to hear that they are to be collected and published separately. The fifth of the series, by Mr. Maurice H. Herbert, the Principal of Illawarra College, New South Wales, deals with "Alternative Measures," which would result either in "Federation" or "Disintegration." The author maintains that the financial, commercial, and political results of "Federation" all tend to the advantage of the colonial-born Briton.

Mr. Mounteney Jephson delivered a lecture on the 22nd ult., at the rooms of the Scottish Geographical Society, on the prospects of trade with Uganda. The chief article for possible export of which there is actually an unlimited supply is, he says, india-rubber; but he also believes that by the cultivation of coffee and of cotton we might make ourselves to a great degree independent of foreign markets. He read a long list of articles which the natives would receive in exchange, and commented strongly on the trashy character of the British goods generally imported into East Africa. For this, however (he was addressing chiefly the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce), he blamed not the merchant, but the enormous cost of transit, which would render profit impossible on goods of any value. As an instance of this cost

he mentioned that a steamer was now being built on the Clyde, for the Victoria Nyanza, for 5,000l., which would cost 25,000l. before it reached its destination. He urged, accordingly, the construction of a railway to the coast, there being, he declared, no great engineering difficulties, and he felt sure that the money (under two millions) would be raised without difficulty if the interest were guaranteed by Government.

#### ASTRONOMICAL NOTES.

The planet Mercury will be at greatest western elongation from the sun on the 19th inst., but being in Sagittarius, and at great southern declination, he will be visible during only a very brief interval before sunrise. Venus is in the constellation Capricornus, moving into Aquarius; her northerly motion is bringing her into view during an increasing interval after sunset, and at the end of the month she will not set until about eight o'clock in the evening. Mars is in Libra during the greatest part of January, and does not rise until some time after midnight. Jupiter is still a brilliant object in the south-western sky during the early part of the night, but sets at the end of the month soon after eight o'clock in the evening, being then not far from Venus, though the conjunction of the two planets will not occur until the 6th of February. Saturn is in Virgo; at the beginning of the month he rises about eleven o'clock in the evening, and at the end of it two hours earlier.

Of the known periodical comets, two are due to return to perihelion early in the present year. The calculated periods of both are about five and a half years, and both were observed in the summer of 1886; but whereas one of them was first discovered (by Mr. Brooks) in that year, and its length of period is somewhat uncertain, the other was discovered (by Pons) in 1819, rediscovered and its period ascertained by Prof. Winnecke in 1858, and observed at the returns in 1869, 1875, and 1886, though not at those which must have taken place in 1863 and 1880, when its positions were unfavourable.

Mr. Burnham communicated to the November meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society two interesting papers on the spots and markings of the planet Jupiter as observed with the twelve-inch equatorial of the Lick Observatory, with some remarks on the suggested duplicity of the first satellite. During a series of observations extending over twelve years, he has often been struck with the decided changes of colour in the different markings on the planet's surface, and has come to the conclusion that the red colour of any of these "is an indication of their age, or, in other words, when a spot or marking (other than the white spots) first appears, it is dark or black, but after some time turns red." The planet was an extremely interesting object at the opposition of last year, owing to the remarkable amount and variety of detail displayed on its surface. "As usual, the two hemispheres have been strongly contrasted in their individual markings. In the southern hemisphere, besides the great red spot, new red spots have appeared, and a great number of round white spots have been visible. These objects are characteristic of the southern hemisphere, though individual white spots have at rare intervals been seen in the northern hemisphere." In the latter a system of small dark spots has appeared; these have very short periods of rotation. "The great red spot has regained much of its former distinctness, both in colour and form." With regard to the first satellite, the appearances observed last year were rather against the theory of actual duplicity. Seen in relief on the southern dark equatorial belt, it seemed egg-shaped, and Mr. Burnham considers that this cannot be due to any peculiarity in the actual shape of the satellite, since it has always appeared perfectly round only a few minutes before the elongated phase, the transition



being rather sudden. He is confident "that this particular phase, and perhaps also that of apparent duplicity, is explained by a bright belt on the satellite, or by darkness of its polar regions," which amounts to the same thing.

The Lalande Prize of the Paris Académie des Sciences for 1891 has been awarded to M. G. Bigourdan for the work he has undertaken, and partly carried out, of micrometrically measuring all the known nebulae, about 6,000 in number, which are observable at Paris; this will be a first step to obtaining some knowledge of their proper motions, and perhaps ultimately of their distances from the sun. This important work has occupied a large portion of M. Bigourdan's time during the last seven years, but the whole is estimated to require nearly twenty years. "Aujourd'hui la moitié du travail d'observation est effectuée, et l'impression en est commencée." No memoir has been presented to the Academy on the special subject proposed for the Damoiseau Prize, i.e., "Perfectionner la théorie des inégalités à longues périodes causées par les planètes dans le mouvement de la lune"; it is therefore proposed again for 1892, and its value set at 4,000 francs. Prizes, however, have been adjudged, for their planetary and cometary investigations, to MM. Gaillot, Callandreaux, and Schulhof. The Janssen Prize, which by the terms of its foundation is in the first instance to be given to those who have contributed to the creation of astronomical spectroscopy, is on this occasion adjudged to M. Rayet, Director of the Observatory of Bordeaux. This prize, annual during the first seven years after its foundation in 1887, will become biennial in 1894.

#### SOCIETIES.

**LINEAN.**—Dec. 17.—Prof. Stewart, President, in the chair.—Sir W. Sendall was admitted, and Mr. L. Rodway was elected a Fellow.—Mr. G. C. Druce exhibited specimens of *Sagina maritima*, Don MS., var. *alpina*, Syme, gathered on steep rocky places on the Cairngorms, and of *Illecebrum verticillatum*, Linn., found near Wellington College, Berks.—Dr. R. C. A. Prior exhibited some fruits of the baobab (*Adansonia*) and an undetermined species of palm, which had been sent from Matabele Land as good to eat, under the misleading names of "cream of tartar fruit" and "wild orange." He read an extract from Oates's 'Matabele Land' describing the natural growth and appearance of the baobab as observed in that country.—The Hon. W. B. Espeut exhibited some nests of humming-birds from Jamaica, and pointed out the variety of materials used by the same species though placed in the same tree (a mangrove), the coloration in some cases being protective, in others not.—A paper was read on the occurrence of two species of Crustacea belonging to the sub-order Cumacea in New Zealand, whence none had been previously described. The author, Mr. G. M. Thompson, gave the result of his dredging in the Bay of Islands in the north, and in the inlets of Stewart Island in the south, and furnished drawings of the species referred to.—A paper on the development of the head of the imago of Chironomus, by Prof. L. C. Miall and Mr. A. R. Hammond, was read by Mr. Hammond, accompanied by a series of illustrations with the oxy-hydrogen lantern. The subject was introduced by a brief sketch of the life-history of the insect in its three stages, followed by detailed descriptions of the head both of the larva and of the imago. The history of the epidemic invaginations by which the imaginal head is formed within the larval head and prothorax was then followed out to its consummation in the development of the fly. The lantern arrangements were most successfully carried out by Mr. F. Enock.

**MICROSCOPICAL.**—Dec. 16.—Dr. R. Braithwaite, President, in the chair.—Mr. E. M. Nelson said he had severely tested Messrs. Powell & Lealand's new apochromatic 1/12 of 1/4 N.A., and he could say it was of remarkably fine glass. It gave an image more free of colour than that of many apochromatics he had seen; its speed in micro-photography was very great. He noted it was fitted with a correction collar.—Mr. H. Bernard exhibited a new form of mechanical stage, which he had invented, made by the firm of Zeiss. The plan he had followed was to imitate the movement of the fingers as they are used for moving glass slips under the microscope. The mechanism was all under and at the

side of the stage. Slides were moved by light adjustable frames. In this way a movement of 10 cm. by 5 cm. was readily obtained without jarring against the condenser or interfering with the light. Large slips with series of sections could thus be easily examined, and zoophyte troughs could be searched from corner to corner. By placing a brass plate on the movable frame the contents of a watch-glass could be closely examined without the usual shaking of the fluid caused when watch-glasses are manipulated by the fingers. He had shown the original drawings of the stage to Prof. Abbe, who thought the idea was the best of the kind he had yet seen.—The President, in thanking Mr. Bernard, said he had often felt the inconvenience arising from the want of a greater range of movement in the ordinary mechanical stage.—Prof. J. W. Groves read a letter from Mr. Hermann giving information that *Volvox globator* was to be found in a pond in the neighbourhood of Balham.—The Hon. J. G. P. Vereker's paper 'On the Resolution of Podura' was read by Prof. Groves. The author stated that he had been experimenting in photo-micrography on scales of Podura and had obtained results which he thought threw some light upon their structure. The photo-micrographs exhibited, he considered, appeared to prove that the Podura scale consists of a hyaline-headed membrane, having minute featherlets inserted in it. At the broadest part of the scale there are one or two rows of beads between the featherlets, while towards the base and top of the scale the beads tend to form single rows.—Mr. E. M. Nelson believed that the effects were due to the thickening of the membrane.—Mr. J. E. Ingpen said Mr. Wenham had gone into this subject, and he had come to the conclusion that the markings were inflations of the membrane.

**HISTORICAL.**—Dec. 17.—Mr. O. Browning in the chair.—A paper was read, by Mr. B. F. Stevens, 'On the Secret Service under George III.,' from new and original information derived from the State Papers and from private manuscripts. Extracts only from the materials collected by Mr. Stevens were read, with explanatory remarks. It is understood that the whole paper, with its copious appendices, giving an almost complete account of the disposal of the Secret Service fund during the first thirty years of the reign of George III., will be printed at full length in the Society's *Transactions*.

#### MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- MON. London Institution, 4.—'Social Pictorial Satire,' Mr. G. du Maurier.
- TUES. Royal Academy, 8.—'Adjoined Discussion on Mr. C. H. Bedell's Paper 'Party and Party-Fence Walls'.
- WED. Royal Academy, 8.—'Painting,' Mr. J. E. Hodgson.
- THURS. Royal Institution, 8.—'Life in Motion, or the Animal Machine,' Prof. J. G. McKendrick (Juvenile Lecture).
- FRI. Royal Academy, 8.—'International Photography,' Mr. E. Focknell.
- SAT. Zoological Soc., 8.—'Collection of Mammals, Reptiles, and Batrachians from Algeria,' Dr. J. Anderson; 'Earthworms collected by Dr. J. Anderson in Algeria,' Mr. F. E. Beldard; 'Myriopoda and Arachnida collected by Dr. Anderson in Algeria and Tunis,' Mr. R. I. Pocock; 'The Species of the Hyacinthidae,' Mr. O. Thomas.
- WED. Geological Soc., 8.—'New Form of Agelacrinites (*Lepidodiscus milleri*, n. sp.) from the Lower Carboniferous Limestone of Cumberland,' Messrs. G. Sharnam and E. T. Newton; 'The Geology of Barbados: Part II. The Oceanic Deposits,' Mr. A. J.ukes-Browne and Prof. J. B. Harrison; 'Archaeopneustes abruptus, a New Genus and Species of Belemnite from the Oceanic Series in Barbados,' Mr. J. W. Gregory.
- THURS. Society of Arts, 8.—'Three States of Matter: Solid, Liquid, and Gaseous,' Prof. J. M. Thomson (Juvenile Lecture).
- FRI. British Archaeological Association, 8.—'Archæology in Derbyshire,' Mr. A. E. Cockayne; 'Find of Roman Remains at Caerleon,' Dr. Fryer.
- THURS. Royal Institution, 8.—'Life in Motion, or the Animal Machine,' Prof. J. G. McKendrick (Juvenile Lecture).
- WED. London Institution, 7.—'Judgment of Musical Works,' Prof. E. Fauer.
- FRI. Royal Academy, 8.—'Painting,' Mr. J. E. Hodgson.
- SAT. Astronomical Soc., 8.—'Life in Motion, or the Animal Machine,' Prof. J. G. McKendrick (Juvenile Lecture).

#### Science Gossip.

MR. DISTANT, the well-known entomologist, is going to publish the result of his twelve months' sojourn in the Transvaal, under the title of 'A Naturalist in the Transvaal.' He traversed the country from north to south, and studied particularly the fauna of the Pretoria district.

GERMANY has lost one of her most distinguished geologists by the recent death of Dr. Ferdinand Roemer, of Breslau. Throughout his long scientific career he was an indefatigable worker in geology and paleontology, especially among the more ancient rocks, and every student of the older strata must be familiar with his 'Lethæa Palæozoica.' Dr. Roemer was a foreign member of the Geological Society of London, and in 1885 the Society awarded to him the Murchison Medal.

MESSRS. WHITTAKER & Co. have made arrangements with the editor of 'El Telegrafista

Español' for the translation into Spanish of Mr. Preece's work upon 'The Telephone.' The book already has been translated into both French and German. The same publishers will issue shortly Mr. A. R. Bennett's papers on the 'Telephoning of Great Cities' and the 'Electrical Parcel Exchange System' (which attracted considerable attention at last year's meeting of the British Association) in a cheap form.

THE general meeting of the Association for the Improvement of Geometrical Teaching is to be held at University College, Gower Street, W.C., on Saturday, January 16th. At the morning sitting the reports of the Council and the committees will be read and the new officers will be elected. At the afternoon sitting the following papers will be read:—'On Laguerre's Dictum concerning Direction,' by Prof. R. W. Genese; 'On the Geometrical Interpretation of Fallacy in Elimination,' by the same authority; and 'On the Use of Horner's Method in Schools,' by Mr. E. M. Langley.

A NEW biological station has recently been established, by Dr. Otto Zacharias, at Plön in Sleswick-Holstein. It is expected to be opened next spring.

#### FINE ARTS

THE VICTORIAN ERA—AN EXHIBITION OF PORTRAITS AND OBJECTS OF INTEREST illustrating Fifty Years of Her Majesty's Reign. Patron, H.M. the Queen.—Open daily from 10 to 6.—New Gallery, Regent Street. LEONARD C. LINDSAY, Secretary.

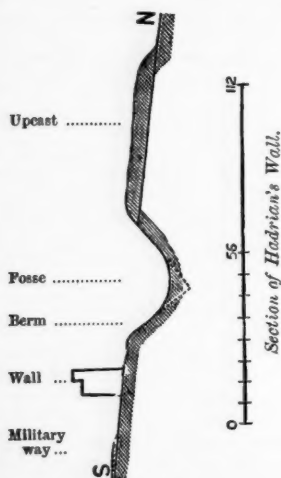
*Per Lineam Valli.* By George Neilson. (Glasgow, Hodge & Co.)

FROM the time of those fathers of English history Gildas and Bede down to our own days, that complex series of defences, usually termed "the Roman Wall," which stretches across England from Newcastle to the Solway Firth, has attracted attentive observation. Nor is this to be wondered at, for that lively antiquary William Hutton was not far wrong in describing it as "one of the grandest works of human labour performed by the greatest nation upon earth." Hutton's close study of that which is generically termed "the Wall" caused him with ingenuity to portion out the different parts of the work to the three great Roman chieftains; assigning to Agricola first a ditch, then a large bank and ditch, and finally a small bank; to Hadrian the joining of a large ditch to this small bank, then a plain, a large mound, and another small ditch; and to Severus a stone wall with a variety of stations, castles, and turrets, a large ditch, and many roads. But this belief in the gradual growth and strengthening of the great rampart under successive generals has now for some time been generally discarded. The view that both wall and vallum were Hadrian's, and that they are complements of each other—the wall as a rampart against the north and the vallum against the south, thus enclosing one great latitudinal camp (as it were) that stretched from sea to sea—was first advanced by Stukeley, and has in our own days been elaborated and popularized by that veteran antiquary of the north Dr. Collingwood Bruce. "Most persons," says Dr. Bruce, "will come to the conclusion that its several parts are the work of one man, of one period, and for one object."

For nearly twenty-five years Dr. Bruce has held this ground undisputed, and the origin and purport of the varied defences were sinking to rest as an assured and well-

proved problem, when suddenly a young assailant of the accepted theory presents himself, and challenges its accuracy. Mr. George Neilson tells us that he started on an eight-day antiquarian pilgrimage along the wall last September with a thorough faith in the theory of the vallum which at present prevails, but that the result of minute inspection was to shatter this belief, and to replace it with a new argument touching the earlier rampart. Hence came about the publishing of the terse and well-written essay before us. At first it seemed unlikely that this brief visit of a Scotch antiquary was going to upset the theories of those who had lived a lifetime by the wall; but the more we study Mr. Neilson's arguments and compare them with those of Stukeley, Hodgson, and Dr. Bruce, the more convinced do we become that the balance of evidence and probability is on the side of the new theory. At all events, no one can venture to treat the fresh arguments with disdain—they demand deliberate study and reflection. Let us endeavour to help towards a right conclusion by summarizing the condition of the wall and Mr. Neilson's contentions.

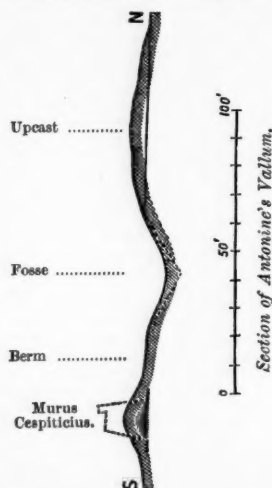
The wall itself, as the inscriptions decisively prove, is the work of the Emperor Hadrian, begun about A.D. 120 as a barrier against the northern barbarians. Its plan is one that was almost invariably used by Roman military engineers. The wall is not on the edge of the fosse, but there is a "berm"



or platform of considerable breadth between. The ditch or fosse, which measures about thirty-five feet across, was originally sloped to a narrow point at the bottom. Outside, on the north side of the ditch, lies a vast heap of earth, which is the upcast from the trench, not laid in any symmetrical mound, but spread promiscuously over the surface, sometimes to a width of fifty feet.

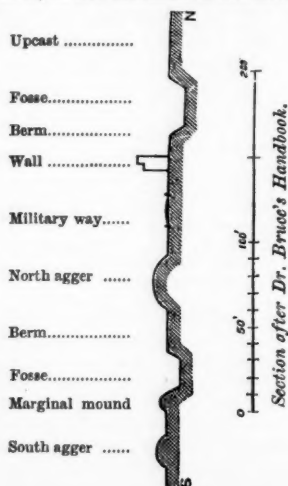
In all these details Hadrian's wall closely resembles the more northern vallum of Antonine, which stretches between Forth and Clyde, save that the Scottish vallum was built up of courses of sods or turf, *muris cespiticiis*, instead of stone. Its ditch and berm are wider, but there is absolute identity of design, as might be expected when we know that it was built nearly at the same period, namely, A.D. 139-140. The numerous sections and other investigations made in

Antonine's wall last summer by the Glasgow Archaeological Society, in which Mr. Neilson took an important part, showed that this



turf wall was built throughout on an evenly laid foundation of stone. The sections of the two walls show their striking similarity. The great Limes Germanicus very nearly resembles the Antonine vallum, and a like formation occurs in London Wall and other places in England.

All this is quite plain sailing; the complication and difficulty, amounting almost to a mysterious puzzle, come in when those other works that are united to and run parallel with the actual wall of Hadrian on the south are taken into consideration. The earthen vallum of Hadrian's great barrier "consists," says Dr. Bruce, "of three ramparts and a fosse. One of these ramparts is placed close upon the southern edge of the ditch, the two others, of larger dimensions, stand, one to the north and the other to the south of it, at the distance of about 24 feet."



This earthen vallum (consisting of north and south agger, fosse, and marginal mound) runs parallel with the wall right across the isthmus. At the extremities they are for the most part very near each other—sometimes so near that there is barely room for the intervening military way; but when, midway between the two seas, the wall begins to ascend a series of steep heights, the vallum parts company and takes a much

lower line, sometimes half a mile south of its companion.

When we read Dr. Bruce's books on the wall and study the sections according to his theories, we are bound to confess that the puzzle of the various parts of the south vallum is not really in any way cleared up; and it is quite impossible to elucidate such views by any other known examples of Roman ramparts or by the writings of any Roman engineer or general. Mr. Neilson's theories, on the contrary, are reasonable, and can be readily followed. The key to the situation is to be found, he considers, in the marginal mound on the south side of the fosse. This marginal mound is not continuous (a fact not stated in Dr. Bruce's works); it varies much in size, is sometimes very low, and in places altogether disappears. Mr. Neilson found that when the ground slopes from north to south the mound is continuous, and the greater the slope the higher the mound; but when the slope is the other way, i.e., from south to north, it is not existent, because unnecessary; its object being to raise the south side of the fosse to something like equality of level, or rather to a slight superiority over the north side. From this Mr. Neilson was first led to a conclusion which fits in remarkably with a variety of other circumstances, namely, that the south agger, marginal mound, and fosse, as shown on the last section, were all parts of a vallum hastily made as a temporary defence against the north whilst the wall or murus was being constructed. If we look upon this as a defence against the north all is clear. Our author aptly says that the Northumbrian moors offer a full illustration of what Tibullus meant when he sang—

Qua decet tutam castris præducere fossam;  
Qualiter adversos hosti defigere cervos;  
Quemve locum ducto melius sit claudere vallo.

All these are here in the very order of the poet: northmost the fosse, then the aggered marginal mound on which the *cervi* (pointed stakes) were fixed adverse to the enemy, and lastly the vallum on well-selected ground. The estimate of two years (which is Dr. Bruce's suggestion) wherein to erect a mighty wall eighty miles long, faced with great blocks of freestone, having mile castles, turrets at short intervals, and great stations every four or five miles, is considered by Mr. Neilson far too brief, and for it he substitutes the more likely conjecture of ten years. During that period this vallum would afford protection to the legionaries and others working in the quarries to find material for the murus. As to the puzzle of the north agger, Mr. Neilson believes that after the wall was made, or possibly during its erection (the material being obtained from the fosse beyond the wall), this mound or vallum was constructed as a special defence of the military way between that vallum and the murus, and as a general defence against the south, so as to prevent the old vallum and works being used as cover by an enemy. The fact of the northern vallum being the more symmetrical and perfect supports this theory, for that would be a natural result of its being heaped up at a later date and under far less pressing circumstances than was the case with its rival on the other side of the ditch.

Contrariwise the work of the southern



vallum harmonizes entirely with the conditions of haste and military necessity that Mr. Neilson surmises as the cause of its construction. He remarks:—

"Hadrian had planned the line of the mighty wall which was to secure Britain to the empire, and at the same time to commemorate his own glory and the majesty of the Roman name. Engineering parties had scoured the isthmus. They had traced in their mind's eye, possibly lined off with landmarks, the direction of the work. They had searched for and ascertained the geological features of the ground, perhaps the very places from which the stones could be cut. With a fierce and daring enemy in front, with extensive quarrying operations to conduct which would inevitably scatter the troops into small detachments often far apart, with 10,000 or 20,000 men to feed in a country where it was no easy matter to find supplies, a temporary defensive work was necessary. Of that need the vallum is the evidence and was the outcome."

Possibly hostile criticisms or contingent difficulties may occur to the mind of the reader who is following Mr. Neilson's theories and arguments; but, if so, in all probability he will find them answered in the ingenious section with which the book closes, and which meets by anticipation probable attacks or animadversions. The book, as a whole, is a remarkable instance of good, clear, trenchant reasoning, free from all verbiage, and absolutely fair to all opponents. We are not surprised to learn that it has favourably impressed several military critics. It is certainly convincing, for the reviewer began the study of Mr. Neilson's pages in the full expectation of not being shaken from Dr. Bruce's conclusions; but he has to yield and acknowledge himself a converted man. Several points advanced by Mr. Neilson can be either substantiated or shaken by cutting sections right through the vallum in different places of its varying arrangement, particularly with regard to the northern agger and to the marginal mound. Possibly in the latter, traces of the *cerri* or stakes might be found. One of the most interesting and valuable archaeological operations of last summer was the digging of such sections through Antonine's wall—a work undertaken by the Glasgow Archaeological Society. We heartily recommend a similar undertaking to the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries, with regard to Hadrian's barrier, during the summer of 1892.

#### THE NATIONAL GALLERY.

SIR F. BURTON has been most fortunate in acquiring not fewer than thirteen new pictures, all of exceptional value and historical as well as artistic importance, and of peculiar value to the National Gallery because, as the names given below will inform the reader, nearly all of them belong to masters not hitherto represented in Trafalgar Square. They were purchased *en bloc* from Herr Habich, of Cassel, who has for several years past lent them to the public gallery of that town, where many English visitors have seen them. With one exception they are all cabinet paintings, and with two exceptions they are now, temporarily, placed in the Central Octagon Hall at Trafalgar Square. One of the two exceptions has been lent to the Royal Academy Winter Exhibition, which opens to the public on Monday next; it represents the 'Death of Dido,' and was painted by Liberale da Verona. The other is in Room IX. at Trafalgar Square, numbered 1337, a head, somewhat more than life size, of Christ, the work of

Bazzi, and probably part of a picture of Christ bearing His Cross. It is now named 'Ecce Homo!' and the face, with a gentle, grave, and dignified expression on features of a very noble and handsome type, is turned in nearly three-quarters view to our left; the hands, which are shown, are joined. The painter's touch is free, firm, and accomplished, but somewhat heavy.

The other new pictures are on the walls or on screens. We mention them in their order in the room. 'A Landscape' (No. 1342) is signed (a unique example) by J. de Wet, full of force, wealth of colour and tone, an evening effect, a sun-flushed sky above a stream with rocky banks. A boat, with figures, is on the water; a castle rises behind trees on the upper plateau. No. 1338, being the work of B. Fabritius, so often named in regard to De Hooghe and Rembrandt, but not to be confused with his namesake, the supposed master of Vermeer of Delft, is extremely fine, and treats the 'Adoration of the Shepherds' with Dutch simplicity. Dutch peasants are kneeling, with their rude implements and brass milk-cans in their hands, about the infant Saviour, who lies at the Virgin's knees. It is painted with full, dark tones and rich tints. No. 1344, 'A Landscape,' by that somewhat rare master S. Van Ruysdael, depicts a group of beeches near the edge of a pond, with a peculiarly sharp, clear, and firm touch, very like that of Stark of Norwich. Figures on horseback and foot and a carriage are introduced on a road near the front. The warm, deep-toned evening sky is first rate. No. 1340, 'Landscape,' is by Roeland Roghman, and gives a rocky prospect at sunset. A rocky vista opens to a glowing horizon; there is a bridge over a ravine on our right; a road, with travellers upon it, curves in front. It is, like all the rest, highly finished and in sound condition. No. 1341, 'Landscape with Figures,' by C. Decker, depicts, with exceptional skill, elaboration, crispness, and technical charm, a sandy hillside sloping to a calm and shining pool; near these are the outbuildings of a farm, poultry, and a traveller on horseback. No. 1339, 'The Nativity of St. John,' is a second example of the peculiar Rembrandtish art of B. Fabritius, and is notable for fulness of tone, a rich sense of idiosyncratic colour, and characteristic "Dutchness." St. John is a well-grown child (no newly-born infant) on his mother's or nurse's knees, and a woman offers him an apple. An aged priest, sitting near the cradle, writes on his tablets a record of the birth. Two other persons are looking on, while an aged man sits and warms his hands before a fire blazing in the chimney. No. 1345, 'A Landscape,' is the work of Jan Wouwerman, a comparatively rare master. His manner in this picture is not unlike that of D. Teniers the elder, but it possesses much greater warmth and lucency, a richer coloration and more research. The landscape is made up of a small, smooth river with rocky banks, a group of oaks on high in the middle of the view, and behind them some old cottages. No. 1343, a large picture, by an unknown painter, was probably the sketch for a public commission of the class best known in the 'Night Watch' of Rembrandt, and representing 'Amsterdam Musketeers on Parade.' It comprises small whole-length figures of officers in armour and soldiers handling their arquebuses at the word of command. There are about thirty figures, most of them portraits, in the composition, and the execution of them is spirited and skilful. No. 1346, 'A Winter Scene,' is a circular picture by Hendrick van Avercamp, who was born in 1585 and living in 1663. Numerous little figures, exquisitely finished and animated, are disporting themselves on the frozen canal, which is placed amid red-brick buildings. The sky is capital. No. 1348, 'Landscape, with a Goat and Kid,' the work of A. Van de Velde, consists of delightfully painted animals standing near some trees; the silky hide of the goat is a

masterpiece. 'A Farmyard Scene' (1349), a finished and brilliant study, somewhat Cuypp-like in character, of a ramshackle wooden shed with implements of husbandry and near it some poultry and a sort of coop, is a most desirable acquisition, as it is an Isaak van Ostade. The crisp touch and golden light will please all lovers of Dutch art. With one or two exceptions the frames of these pictures are, according to the wise practice of the Low Country painters, black, apparently the originals, and the pictures gain much from this circumstance. Black frames are found in nearly every representation of Dutch collections. For instance, in 'The Interior of a Picture Gallery,' No. 1287 in the National Gallery, attributed to Jan Breughel, of thirty or forty paintings depicted as being on the walls and floor, only three are not in black frames. The famous Teniers at Vienna of 'The Archduke's Gallery' is an equally apt illustration of the taste of Dutch and Flemish painters.

#### FINE-ART Gossip.

THE private view of the Winter Exhibition of the Royal Academy is appointed for to-day (Saturday); the public will be admitted to the galleries on Monday next at ten o'clock.

THAT popular and accomplished amateur sculptor Count Gleichen died suddenly of syncope attending pneumonia, following influenza, on the morning of the 31st ult., at St. James's Palace, where, by Her Majesty's favour, he had long had a studio. He was born in 1833, and entered the Navy. After serving in the Baltic and before Sebastopol in 1854 and 1855, he retired, and devoted himself to art. His smaller productions have often been seen at the Academy; the largest of them is 'Alfred the Great,' a colossal statue, which in 1877 was erected at Wantage.

GUY HEAD was once a well-known artist-amateur and amateur-artist who, in London and Rome, painted many portraits about a hundred years ago. At the latter city in 1792 he produced a characteristic portrait of Flaxman, which Mr. T. R. Wilkinson, of Manchester, has presented to the National Portrait Gallery. It was sold at Christie's the other day with the pictures of Mr. Crozier, of Manchester.

THE exhibition of the antiquities found at Silchester, which opened in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries yesterday, contains many objects of interest: architectural fragments; specimens of Samian ware, especially a fine bowl, and also of a black ware with a velvety glaze, which is decidedly remarkable; several charming pots; *fibulae* of graceful form; a bronze ornament silver plated, from the basilica; and fragments of glass of much larger size than any before found in Roman Britain. There is a good deal, too, of rough British pottery. *Amphore* seem to have been scarce in Silchester, for a large one that has been found and fragments of others have evidently been repaired with care as if they were valued. There is a military decoration, the only other specimen of which—exactly the same in pattern—was unearthed north of the Roman Wall, and has been lent by the Duke of Northumberland for comparison. A couple of British coins may also be mentioned, one of them unique. Among the bones are the skeletons of two cats, although the Romans are supposed not to have known the ordinary domestic cat. The plans of the houses are interesting, for they show that the Romans did not attempt to preserve their Italian customs and have an *atrium* in a cold climate, but grouped their buildings round three sides of a courtyard.

THE Norwich Museum, which is about to be transferred to the shell of the old castle—which is being "restored," we are sorry to say—is to be enriched by the munificent donation by Mr. R. Fitch, F.S.A., of the whole of his well-known local collection. This collection, though a thoroughly

representative one, is especially rich in local seals, signet rings, and manuscripts, and is of the value of many thousand pounds. A more complete local collection has seldom been made or given to the public, and East Anglian antiquaries will always owe a great debt to Mr. Fitch, who has also offered to bear the whole cost of fitting up the room in which it will be placed, and which will worthily bear his name.

A CORRESPONDENT points out that if Rochester Castle is defaced, as described in our number of December 19th, now that it has fallen into the hands of the Corporation, the same moral may be drawn as in the case of Canterbury Castle, which, having been acquired by the Corporation, was turned eventually into a gigantic "coal-hole," as it was bitterly described by Mr. G. T. Clark at the archaeological meeting there in 1875. An attempt was lately made by the Corporation of Colchester to acquire its massive castle, but fortunately failed. At Colchester, as at Rochester, the idea has been mooted of glazing over the interior of the keep as a museum, and the local sediles of our provincial towns are not to be trusted with such venerable relics as these Norman strongholds.

It is not only castles that are "restored" with misplaced zeal. The Corporation of Colchester, it is amusing to learn, are introducing a Bill into Parliament "to revive [*inter alia*] the title of Portreeve of Colchester and to enable the Chairman" of the Harbour Committee "to bear that title." There is not a scrap of evidence that Colchester ever had a "Portreeve," and even if it had, we need hardly observe, he would have had no connexion with its so-called harbour. The office will be a choice specimen of the "modern antique."

MR. BARRINGTON NASH writes to inform us that the inquiry we inserted for him in our "Fine-Art Gossip" of September 26th, as to the present *locale* of the long-lost miniature portrait of Robert Burns by Alexander Reid, has been the means of bringing it to light.

THE Art Gallery at Birmingham has purchased a drawing made by D. G. Rossetti for the first of his designs for book illustration. It is the original of 'Sir Galahad at Devotion,' one of the finest cuts in the well-known 'Poems by Alfred Tennyson,' 1860. The same gallery has been enriched by buying two beautiful cabinet pictures by Mr. Arthur Hughes, 'The Annunciation' and 'The Nativity.' These three works belonged till lately to the gallery of Mr. Leathart, of Bracken Dene, Low Fell, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, where we described them when writing "The Private Collections of England, No. II."

THE Royal Academy lectures for 1892 have been appointed as follows, to begin at eight o'clock in the evening of each day:—By Mr. J. E. Hodgson, R.A. (Professor of Painting), on January 4th, 7th, 11th, 14th, 18th, and 21st, the subjects being 'Ancient and Modern Painters: their Technique.' By Mr. A. S. Murray (Keeper of Greek and Roman Antiquities in the British Museum), on February 15th, 18th, and 22nd, the subject being 'Archaic compared with Archaistic Sculpture.' By Mr. J. H. Middleton (Slade Professor, Cambridge), on February 26th and March 4th and 7th, on 'Michael Angelo' (continued from last year). By Mr. Aitchison, A.R.A. (Professor of Architecture in the Royal Academy), on January 25th and 28th and February 1st, 4th, 8th, and 11th, on 'Saracenic and Turkish Architecture.'

A LEADING Yorkshire journal, referring to the correspondence lately published in these columns about Kirkstall Abbey, remarks: "The same system of restoration was proposed for Rievaulx Abbey, but, in that instance, we had the example of one man being stronger than many, and, through the wise ruling of Lord Aversham, Ryedale still retains the loveliest

monastic ruin in Yorkshire." Another local contemporary, after protesting against the architects' dictum that the growth of ivy is "insidious poison," adds: "Everybody, however, must agree in the conclusion that the poison is very slow in its action. Kirkstall has, now that it is in the hands of the Leeds Corporation, the appearance of a building which has been partly burnt down. It is ugly in the extreme."

THREE sketches *à la sanguine* by Watteau were sold the other day in Paris for 850 fr.; a second three for 650 fr.; four, by the same, realized 650 fr. A portrait of Molière, seated in a chair before a table, painted in oil by Sébastien Bourdon and engraved in line by Beauvarlet, was sold for 650 fr.; while a sketch of a girl bathing, attributed to Fragonard, realized 3,400 fr. The Meissonnier Exhibition has been abandoned, and the works the great artist left in his studio are to be sold by auction.

THE French papers are much exercised by the discovery at Cherbourg of a manufactory of false Millets. It is rumoured that the most favoured market for these things is the United States, but the person who grew suspicious and showed his purchases to experts was M. de Tocqueville. The fabricator upon whom the police have laid their hands is described as one Tesson, a frame-maker and painter.

A MUMMY is not an object that often comes under the hammer of the auctioneer, but one was sold last week at a sale of antiquarian objects at Messrs. Sotheby's rooms, realizing 33l.

THE Pompeian House of Prince Napoléon in the Avenue Montaigne, Paris, is being demolished.

HERREN HEBERDA AND WILHELM have had great success in their archaeological progress through Cilicia Trachea, having discovered many remains of hitherto unknown monuments and inscriptions, some of which are of great importance philologically and historically. One fragment of a royal letter, and others dating from the second century B.C., are amongst the treasures they bring home.

EXCAVATIONS have begun in the ancient theatre of Gythium, the former port of Sparta, in the Gulf of Laconia. As the sea threatens the remains of the Temple of Minerva at Sunium, the Greek Archaeological Society has sent a commissioner to take measures for its preservation.

Two new museums have been founded in Greece, one at Tanagra, the other, a small one, at Livadia.

THE latest excavations at Epidaurus have brought into light the ancient building at the south-east of the Temple of Æsculapius and to the north of the Temple of Artemis, and herein were discovered the remains of the altar on which the victims were sacrificed. Around it was a layer of black earth, in which were found ashes and bones of animals, with many fragments of small terra-cotta vases and bronzes. One terra-cotta fragment is important because it contains some archaic inscriptions belonging to the first years of the fifth century B.C., being *anathemata* to Æsculapius and Apollo. To the north-east of the Temple of Æsculapius were unearthed some *bathra* and *exhedre*, and some votive inscriptions of Hellenic and Roman times. The whole *diazoma* of the temple was also cleared.

THE excavations of the German School at Magnesia ad Meandrum, under the direction of Dr. Kern, have now reached the agora, where, besides other antiquities, two statues of Athena have been found. One wears the *chiton poderes*, fastened at the shoulders and arms by brooches and folded crosswise on the breast. In front of the *chiton* is a representation in relief of the emblem of Athena, viz., a Medusa head, with its serpents touching the breasts and reaching up the neck. The statue is of natural height, but of the arms only detached fragments were

found. The second statue is 1½ mètres high, and bears aloft in one hand a spear and in the other a shield. Both statues are unfortunately headless. Other discoveries include two colossal statues of women, about 2½ mètres high, clothed in long garments reaching in folds to the ground, with a mantle covering the head. They are supposed to represent the city of Magnesia. Of the heads only one was found on the ground, and it is probable the other will be found close by. Two other statues represent two Amazons on horseback, with their husbands holding the reins. At the same time many inscriptions were found.

AMONGST the most important results of the latest excavations at the Dipylon at Athens is the discovery in the midst of the necropolis of a sanctuary, a position hitherto unprecedented. There is also an inscription of forty-two lines belonging to the first century B.C., which is entirely preserved. In it mention is made of the worship of Artemis Soteira, which it was not hitherto supposed had existed in Attica, and there occur in it the names of two archons now known to us for the first time. Prof. Mylonas, who is the discoverer of this inscription, will publish it immediately in the *Éphéméris Archæologiké*, together with some others relating to the Dionysiac actors, one of whom belongs to the fourth century B.C.

PROF. MYLONAS, director of the latest excavations at the Dipylon, is preparing a comprehensive work upon their results, in which he follows their course from their commencement in 1862 till the present day. They were begun under the auspices of the Italian Government, and were continued by the Greek Archaeological Society.

## MUSIC

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

*Twelve New Songs by British Composers.* Edited by Harold Boulton. (The Leadenhall Press.)—The title of this handsomely printed volume affords no indication of its importance, nor of the editor's zeal in preparing it. Mr. Boulton tells us in his preface that his aim was to present a series of lyrics by the most noteworthy of contemporary British-born composers, in order to afford proof in a tangible and compact form of the renaissance of musical art in this country. This is a worthy object; but the case is stated in somewhat loose fashion. For example, it is said that "at the end of the sixteenth and beginning of the seventeenth centuries," every one of education was expected to take his part in "catch, canon, or glee." Catches were not in general vogue until after the Restoration, while the glee is essentially a product of the eighteenth century. The word "madrigal" would have been far preferable in this connexion. Then, again, it is said that the line of "German giants" began with Haydn, and ended with Wagner—Bach at one end of the line and Brahms at the other being ignored. In the praiseworthy endeavour to secure recognition for the energetic and gifted composers who have already done much to remove the reproach under which we so long suffered, it will be as well at all times to assume the rôle of the judge rather than the advocate. The musicians who have contributed to this collection of songs are Messrs. Barnby, Cellier, Corder, Cowen, C. H. Lloyd, Mackenzie, MacCunn, Parry, Arthur Somervell, Stanford, Goring Thomas, and Charles Wood—a goodly list, from which, however, the name of Sir Arthur Sullivan is absent. Mr. Boulton has supplied the verses for the whole of the series, and his lines are elegant, fanciful, and for the most part singable—in brief, above the average of "words for music." The songs, of course, vary in merit, and it is difficult to decide which would prove most effective in performance, all being artistic and superior to



the level of ordinary ballads. The volume, which we commend to the notice of vocalists, is enriched by a frontispiece entitled 'The Harp-sichord,' engraved from a drawing by Mr. Frank Dicksee, representing a young girl playing upon a two-manual instrument.

*Scottish Church Music: its Composers and Sources.* By James Love. (Blackwood.) — The title of this work is to some extent misleading, as it deals with hymn tunes of all countries. Its contents are an alphabetical list of upwards of a thousand tunes, three hundred chants, doxologies, &c., and biographical sketches of their composers, the last about five hundred in number. An appendix supplies some particulars concerning the principal collections of psalmody published in Scotland since 1700. A number of examples are given, both in the staff and the Tonic Sol-fa notations. As a work of reference the volume can scarcely fail to prove useful, as it has been carefully compiled and is, so far as we have tested it, accurate as to its statements.

We have also received *The Cathedral Prayer Book*, edited by Sir John Stainer (Novello, Ewer & Co.), containing the whole of the Book of Common Prayer with the music necessary for the use of choirs, the Psalter, of course, being pointed in the Anglican chants.

#### OBITUARIES.

THE death of Mr. Weist Hill, which occurred on Saturday last, was certainly not unexpected, for it was known that he was suffering from an incurable disease; and although some time since he underwent a successful operation, about three weeks ago he had a sudden relapse, from which he never properly rallied. Thomas Henry Weist Hill was born in 1828, and was a King's Scholar at the Royal Academy of Music. He manifested remarkable ability as a violinist, and for many years he was a prominent member of the famous Costa orchestra. In 1874 he became conductor of the unfortunate Alexandra Palace, where he trained an excellent orchestra and did much good work, Handel's oratorios 'Esther' and 'Susanna' being revived under his direction. On the formation of the Guildhall School of Music in 1880 Mr. Weist Hill was offered the position of principal, and the amazing growth of the institution was, no doubt, due in some measure to his able direction. He was unfailingly courteous and considerate towards the staff of the school; but his views were, perhaps, somewhat reactionary, and it is fervently to be hoped that the civic authorities will exercise a wise discretion in the selection of his successor. The principal of such a vast establishment should possess ample musical knowledge, sound business capacity, and catholic tastes and sympathies. The number of eminent musicians possessing these diverse but essential qualities is so limited that a correct choice ought not to be a matter of difficulty.

The announcement of the premature death of Mr. Alfred Cellier, on Monday night, will be received with regret by a wide circle of amateurs. The repeated postponements of the first performance of 'The Mountebanks' were stated to be on account of his illness, but no serious results were apprehended. Mr. Cellier was born in 1844, and was contemporary with Sir Arthur Sullivan as a chorister at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. He subsequently studied the organ, the most noteworthy of his appointments being at St. Alban's, Holborn. His name, however, will be chiefly remembered in conjunction with light opera, and his first work of any importance in this branch of art was 'The Sultan of Mocha,' which was performed at the St. James's Theatre in 1876. 'Dorothy' was his masterpiece; the flow of elegant melody, and the quaint, old English flavour of several of the numbers, winning the admiration of connoisseurs. His efforts in the higher forms of music were scarcely successful. The most noteworthy

worthy of these was a setting of Gray's 'Elegy,' produced at the Leeds Festival in 1883, but, although distinguished by refined taste, the work was felt to be inadequate to its subject. Boccherini was nicknamed the wife of Haydn, and in a similar sense Cellier might be termed the wife of Sir Arthur Sullivan. His music was always tuneful, tasteful, and in its modest way expressive, but lacking in breadth, and even in humour. He died literally in harness, having put the finishing touches to the score of 'The Mountebanks' a few minutes before the end came.

#### Musical Gossip.

THE only performances of any importance in London this week were 'The Messiah' at the Albert Hall on Friday and the Ballad Concert this afternoon, both, of course, too late for notice.

At the last meeting of the Cardiff festival committee it was decided that the conductor should not be a local musician. The name of Mr. Riseley, of Bristol, has been mentioned in connexion with the matter, and a better choice could certainly not be made.

WITH regard to the scholarships at the Royal Academy of Music which will be open to competition, it may be desirable to draw attention to the exceptional value of that which bears the name of Liszt. This provides three years' free instruction at the Academy, and afterwards a yearly sum of about 75*l.* for two years to enable the scholar to reside on the Continent and acquire further musical experience. It is to be hoped that a candidate of exceptional natural gifts will be forthcoming to claim such a valuable scholarship.

MR. EUGENE D'ALBERT is said to have created an enormous sensation in Vienna, where he played at his first concert no fewer than three concertos, namely, Beethoven's in *g*, Chopin's in *e* minor, and Liszt's in *e* flat.

THE *Musikalisches Wochenblatt* states that, owing to imperfections in performance, Cornelius's opera 'Der Barbier von Bagdad' made no impression when it was given by the pupils of the Royal College of Music. It is difficult to understand how our contemporary could have been so grossly misinformed.

IN consequence of their great success at the previous performance, the third acts of 'Tannhäuser' and 'Lohengrin' were announced to be repeated at Sir Charles Halle's Manchester concert on Thursday evening this week, with Miss Fillunger, Mlle. Trebelli, Mr. Andrew Black, and Mr. Lloyd as the soloists.

THE difficulty experienced by French musicians in comprehending and appreciating music of any country save their own received a further exemplification last week, when Brahms's Symphony in *d*, No. 2, was performed by the Société des Concerts. The beautiful work is described as dull and without inspiration, and the melodious and winning first movement is said to be wholly devoid of significance.

BRAHMS's most recent chamber works, to which we referred recently, are a Quintet in *e* minor for clarinet and strings, and a Trio for pianoforte, clarinet, and violoncello. They were performed at the last of Herr Joachim's Quartet Concerts in Berlin, and both were applauded, but the quintet made the stronger impression. We shall doubtless hear the works at the Popular Concerts during Herr Joachim's next visit to London.

RUBINSTEIN, who has been staying at Milan, is said to have definitely declined an offer of 24,000*l.* for a tour of three months in America.

MÉHUL's opera 'Joseph' has been revived with success at Leipzig. The performance is spoken of in the highest terms.

SIGNOR LUIGI MANCINELLI has just produced a new Mass from his pen at the church of St. Francis in Madrid, and the work is very highly praised by the local journals.

THE Opera-house at Stockholm, erected in 1782, and therefore one of the oldest theatres in Europe, is about to be demolished, and a new and more commodious house built in its place. It was in the theatre about to disappear that Gustavus III. was assassinated by Ankarström on March 16th, 1792.

CONTINENTAL papers report that the town of Pesaro is making preparations for the celebration of the centenary of Rossini's birth, which falls on February 29th, 1892.

#### CONCERTS, &c., NEXT WEEK.

TUES. Mr. Daaenreuther's Concert, 8.30.  
FRI. Sir Charles Halle's Concert, Berlioz's 'Faust,' 8.30, St. James's Hall.  
SAT. Sir Charles Halle's Concert, Berlioz's 'Faust,' 2, St. James's Hall.

#### DRAMA

#### THE WEEK.

VAUDEVILLE.—'The Honourable Herbert,' a Play in Four Acts. By C. Haddon Chambers.  
ST. JAMES'S.—'Forgiveness,' a Comedy in Four Acts. By J. Comyns Carr.

ABANDONING the line of melodrama in which his previous successes have been obtained, Mr. Haddon Chambers in 'The Honourable Herbert' tells in simple fashion a thin, but not ineffective story of love and jealousy. His play is ingenious in construction and fairly fresh in idea, introduces some realizable characters, and is in the main nervously and brightly written. It introduces a good deal of superfluous dialogue; makes too much of the comic wooing of two youthful lovers, one of them a boy in a jacket; and has one character, at least, which is inconceivable and redundant. It is, however, creditable work, and shows that the range of the dramatist is wider than was previously imagined. In one respect it resembles French work rather than English, viz., in leaving at the conclusion to the imagination of the audience some responsibility in shaping the dénouement. So unforced and tender is the termination, indeed, that it would win forgiveness for a weaker piece.

For fear lest he should marry a certain Florrie Summers, a young lady capable upon occasion of being superior to conventional restraints, the friends of the Hon. Herbert Doring have shipped him off to America, where he has fulfilled their anticipations by wedding Mary, the daughter of Pym Brady, a rich and eccentric American. Upon his return to England, however, the old ascendancy is resumed, and the young husband quits his wife for his mistress. Objecting, not unnaturally, to the desertion, Mrs. Doring interferes with the love-making, and endeavours, unsuccessfully, to win her husband back to her. Chance, however, comes to help her. The sinner meets with an accident that disables and disfigures him, and is nursed into recovery by his patient, forgiving wife. For a time it appears as if her labour had been wasted, his self-rebuke taking a shape calculated to bring about a permanent separation. At the last moment, however, when with despair in her heart she is about to leave him, he calls her back with a passionate cry, and all is well. A comic underplot is of little importance, but a lover of Mrs. Doring, who allows his secret once to escape him, and then acts with magnani-

mous self-restraint, deserves mention on account of the opportunity it affords Mr. Elwood, who plays the part with much care and finish. Mr. Conway does his best with the not very sympathetic part of the hero, and Mr. Thorne plays carefully, but nervously, as the American father. Miss Dorothy Dorr displays power as the heroine, but starts the whole in too elevated a key. Mr. Dodsworth, Mr. Sydney Brough, Miss Banister, Miss Mary Collette, and Miss Gertrude Warden are included in an adequate cast. The piece was received with favour.

Though hazy in story and exasperating in moral, 'Forgiveness' is a good play. To sympathize with its plot requires a blind abandonment of faith and judgment to the demands of the author. Those capable of such self-sacrifice are rewarded by a story that pleases more than it puzzles, and has the rare advantage of growing increasingly stimulating to the close of the action. So complicated are the threads of the intrigue, that the task of sorting the skein would be practically interminable. The main motive is the attempt of a son to repair the wrong done by his father. With this given end in view he resigns a noble estate to which he is entitled, and puts up with unpardonable rudeness from those for whose sake he is sacrificing his fortune, and as it seems his manhood. Not very convincing is this, and we are disposed to regard as abject rather than heroic the conduct of the man who, for no reason easily conceivable, allows himself to be branded as a liar, a thief, and a forger in the presence of the woman he loves, and is bidden by her with defiance and insult to leave her father's house. Had Mr. Carr pitched the note a little lower, we should have been more yielding responsive to his harmonies.

Still it is better for a moral to soar out of sight than to crawl. In the end we become interested in the fate of the youth whose love is so all-embracing, and whose folly and unreason are, perhaps, not greater than love has previously brought about. At the close our eyes are wet with tears of tenderness, and our interest throughout, though it is never poignant, is always genuine. The dialogue meanwhile is bright, there is some fairly effective satire of modern developments, and the characters, though none of them aims at being a creation, are fresh and welcome.

An admirable interpretation is afforded. Miss Marion Terry is once more delightful in all respects as the heroine. It is doubtful whether any other actress could have rendered the part more womanly and sympathetic. Mr. Alexander is delightful, earnest, and impassioned as the hero; that he is a thought too sentimental and perfect is the fault of the piece. Mr. Nutcombe Gould, Mr. Arthur Bouchier, Mr. Gardiner, Mr. De Lange, Mr. Everill, and other actors play with admirable ease, and the performance is a credit to our stage.

#### Dramatic Gossip.

For absence of literary merit 'Humpty Dumpty,' the Drury Lane pantomime, announced as by Mr. Harry Nichols and Sir Augustus Harris, compensates by the beauty of the

pageantry and the ingenuity of some of the effects. A dance of dolls is excellent, and the electric light is used in one scene with results not previously accomplished on the stage. To produce so elaborate a spectacle on Boxing night without a hitch reflects credit on the power of organization of the manager.

THE burlesque of 'Cinder-Ellen up too Late,' produced on Christmas Eve at the Gaiety, is not more inane than such productions (once more at the height of popularity) usually are. Mr. Leslie, who, under the pseudonym of A. C. Torr, is with Mr. Vincent responsible for the words, acts very comically. Miss E. Farren was not well enough to take the part allotted her in the entertainment.

FOR afternoon performances at the Princess's a new adaptation, by Messrs. Arthur H. Gilbert and Charles Renad, of 'Le Voyage en Suisse' has been produced. Another adaptation by Robert Reece was given in 1880 at the Gaiety. The fun is extracted from a series of practical jokes inflicted upon a couple on their wedding tour. The three brothers Renad prove themselves competent humourists and pantomimists.

NEW ballets have been given at the Alhambra and the Empire. That at the former house, by Signor Coppi, is entitled 'Temptation.' 'Nisita; or, the Enchanted Isle,' at the Empire, is by Madame Katti Lanner.

IN the revival at the Strand, for afternoon performances, of 'Hans the Boatman,' Miss Atherton and Mr. Charles Arnold are seen to advantage. Mr. Arnold has genuine picturesqueness and delicacy of style.

MISS OLGA BRANDON and Mr. Lewis Waller will shortly be seen at an afternoon performance in a piece adapted from the Danish by Mr. Edward Rose.

WE regret that, owing to the illness of Mr. Toole, on whom the severe Christmas weather laid disabling hands, the opening of Toole's Theatre, fixed for Saturday last, has been postponed.

MRS. HODGSON BURNETT has obtained a lease of the Royalty Theatre, with a view to the production on the 6th inst. of her play of 'The Showman's Daughter.'

'THE SILVER SHIELD,' by Mr. Grundy, will be revived on the afternoon of the 28th inst. by Miss Annie Irish and Mr. William Herbert.

MR. JAMES HOGG writes:—

"It may interest your readers to know that the author of 'Box and Cox' has left in my hands two new plays of one act each. These were written in 1887, while he was in full vigour of mind and body, able to enjoy his favourite 'tree walks' in Richmond Park and the Chestnut Avenue at Bushey. One piece is an original comedieta, entitled 'An Old Flame,' a bright, bustling bit of humour, with all the old sparkle and crispness of dialogue, the scene laid at Hampstead. The other is an original farce, entitled 'Mrs. Wigg's Water-Party,' a riverside scene at Teddington. For fun and 'go' this little piece is simply delightful. If I mistake not, the public will place it next to (perhaps even alongside) the evergreen 'Box and Cox.' Arrangements are maturing for the other side of the Atlantic, and in the course of the coming season I expect that English playgoers, in town and country, will have two 'good times' over this 'last fruit from an old tree.'

M. VERCOUSIN, well known as a writer of *comédies de salon*, recently died in Paris.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A. C.—M. H. S.—J. G. F. N.—R. B.—W. R. M.—J. L. G.—P. M.—received.  
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